

EPICS &
MYTHOLOGY



PRABHAVATI

THE ASURA PRINCESS

Vol 761 | ₹50

PRABHAVATI

The demon, Vajranabha, performs severe penance. Pleased, Brahma grants him the city of Vajra, and says that not even air will enter the city, unless Vajranabha wants it to. Now, powerful in his impregnable city, Vajranabha turns his sights on Indra's kingdom. Indra goes to Krishna for help.

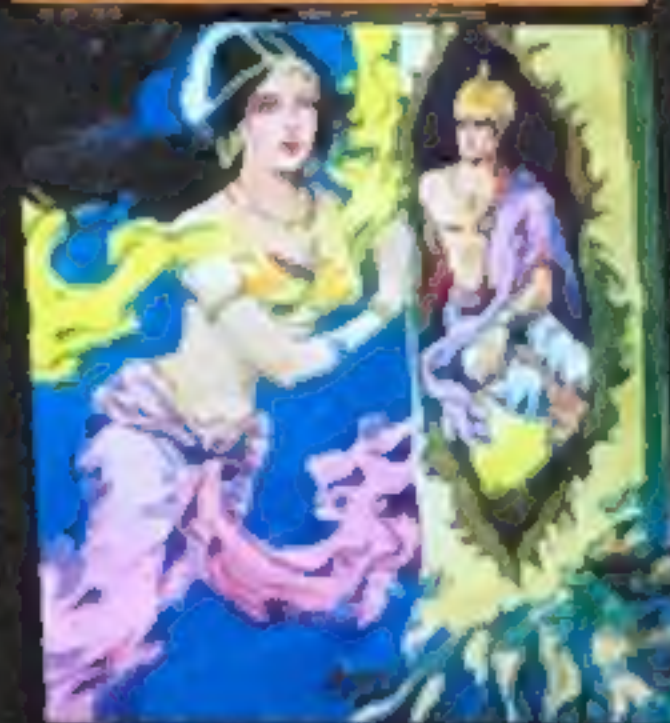
What Vajranabha does not realise is that his daughter, Prabhavati, has set her heart on marrying Pradyumna, the son of Krishna.

OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:

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INDRA AND SHACHI



KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA



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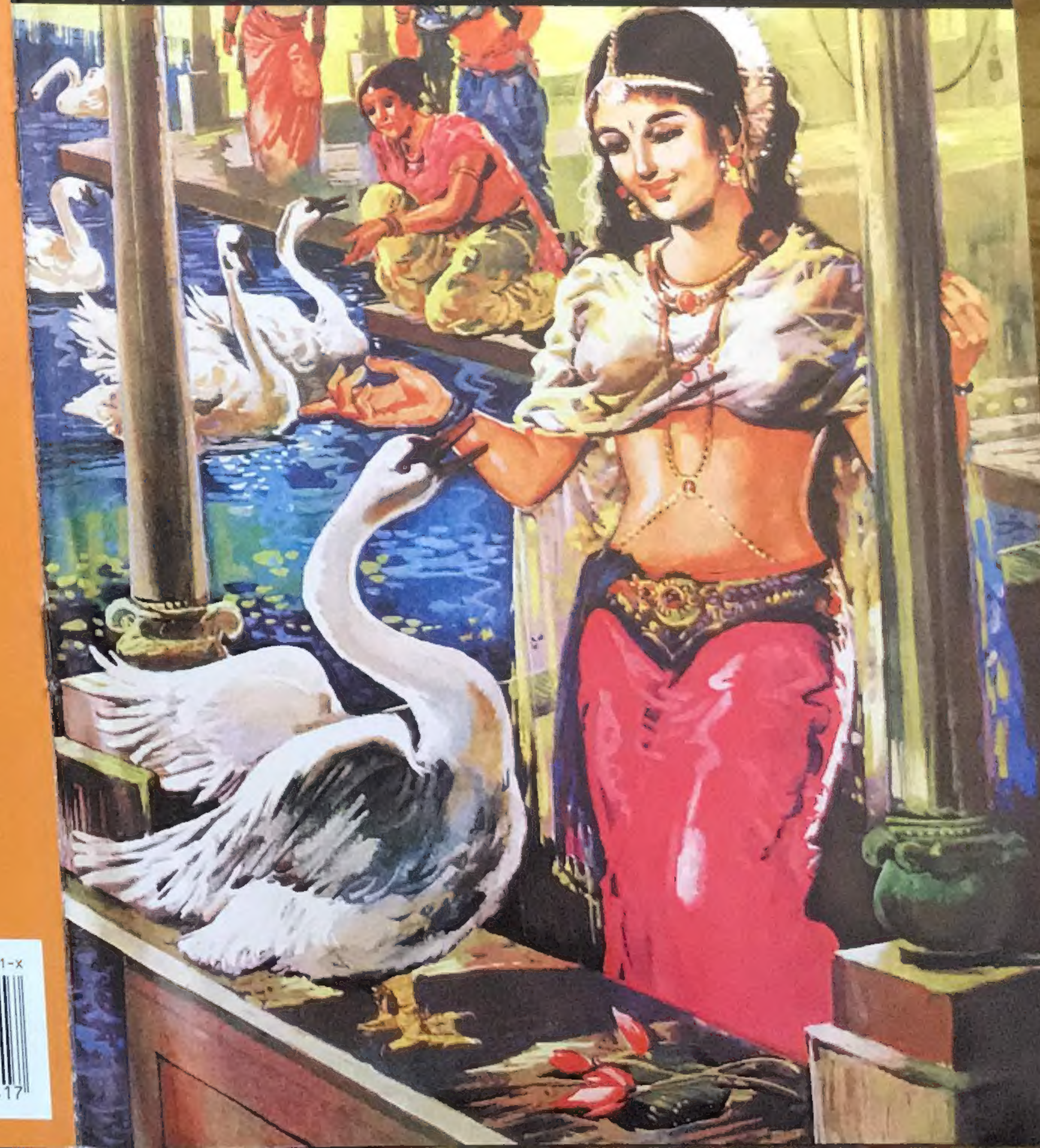
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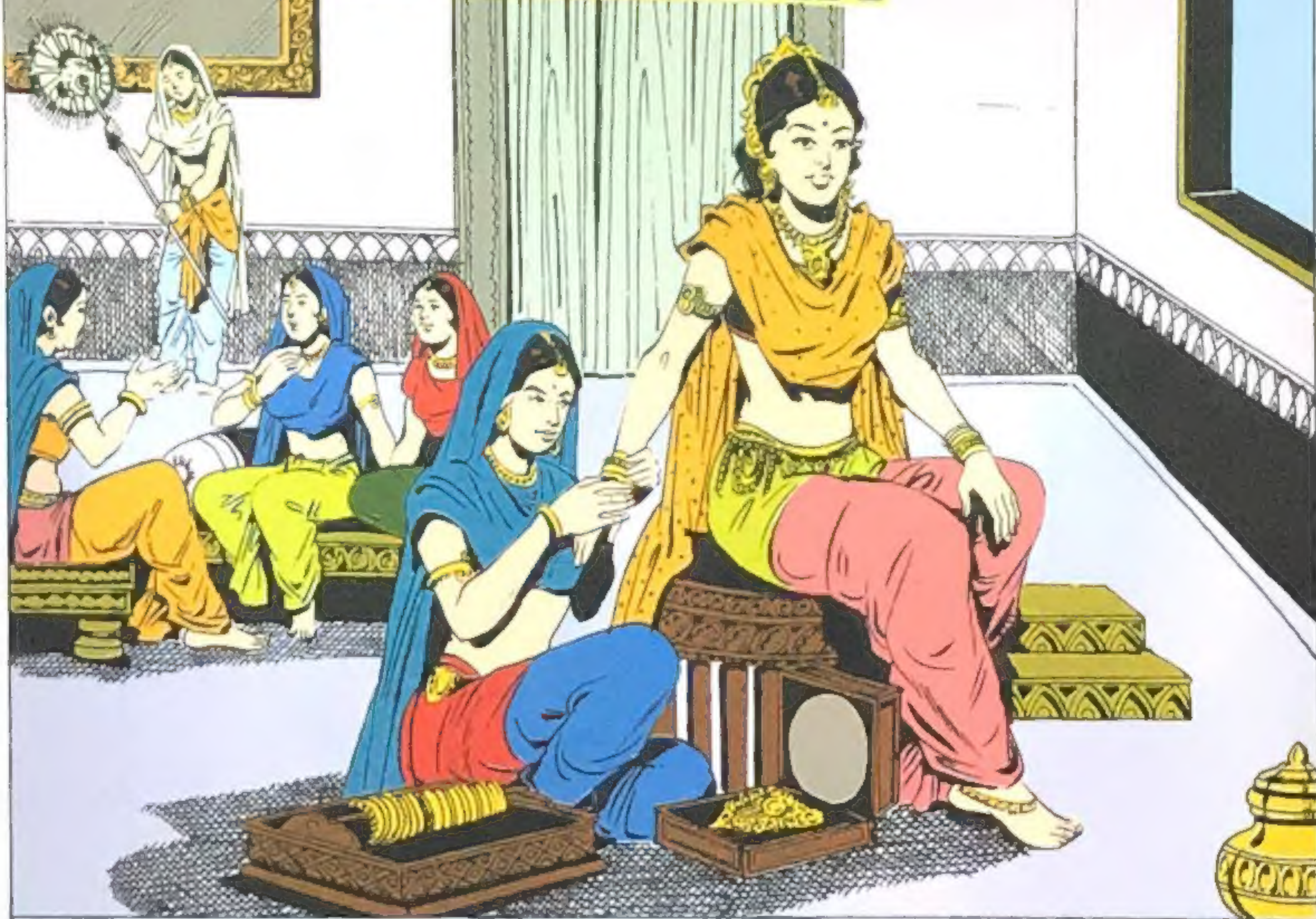
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PRABHAVATI



PRABHAVATI, THE YOUNG DAUGHTER OF THE GREAT ASURA, VAJRANABHA, WAS LISTENING INTENTLY TO THE GOSSIP OF THE ELDERLY ASURA WOMEN, IN THE INNER APARTMENTS OF THE PALACE.

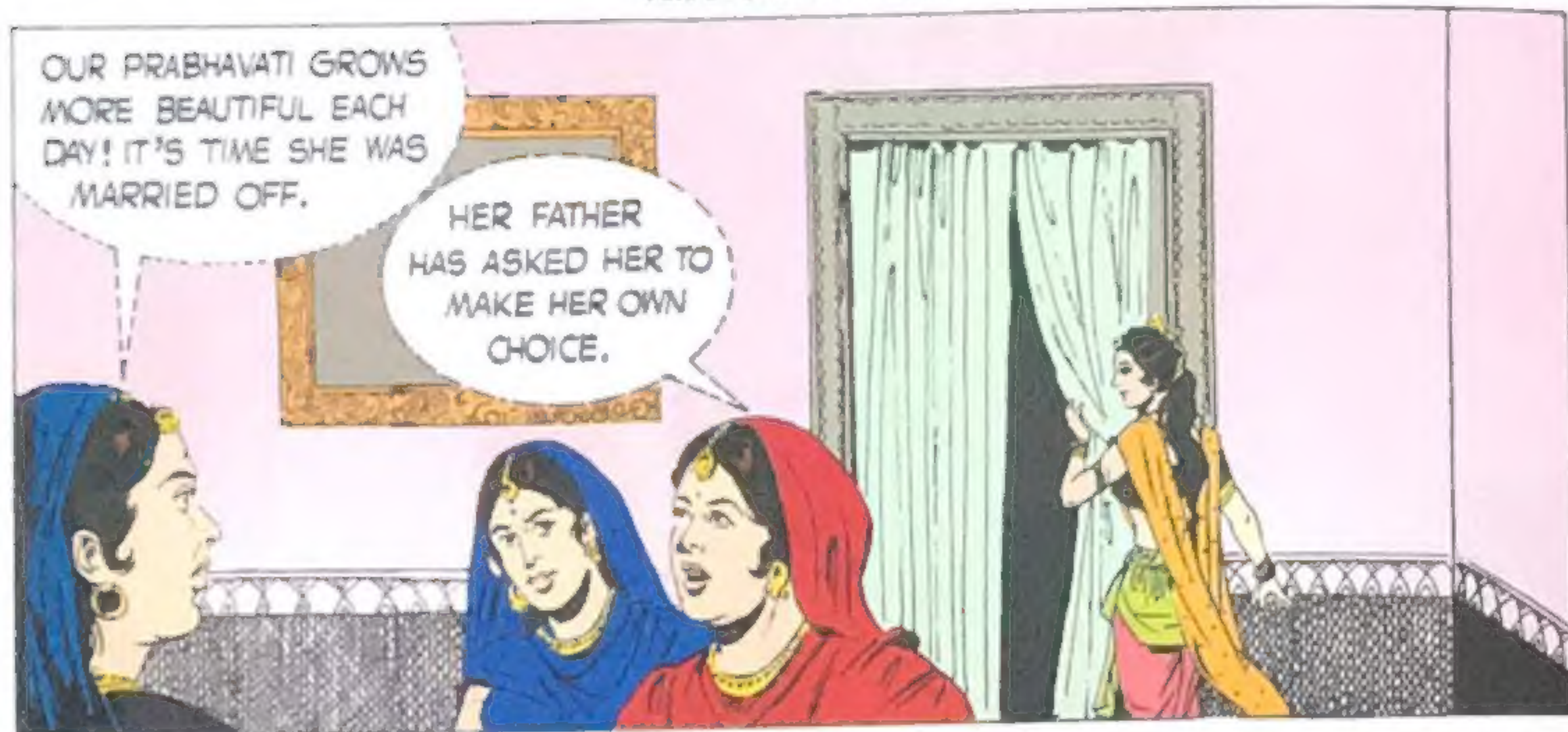
HAVE YOU HEARD?
PRADYUMNA, THE SON
OF THAT YADAVA,
KRISHNA, HAS KILLED
THE MIGHTY
SHAMBARA.

BUT ISN'T
HE A MERE
LAD?

FIRST THE FATHER,
NOW THE SON. WILL
OUR TROUBLES
NEVER END?

THAT MEANS THEIR
FAMILY IS SUPERIOR
TO OURS - SUPERIOR
TO OUR VERY
RACE.





OUR PRABHAVATI GROWS MORE BEAUTIFUL EACH DAY! IT'S TIME SHE WAS MARRIED OFF.

HER FATHER HAS ASKED HER TO MAKE HER OWN CHOICE.



TRUE ENOUGH. BUT MANY ARE THE HANDSOME, BRAVE ASURAS WHO HAVE GONE BACK DISAPPOINTED AT HER REFUSAL.

WHAT IS SHE LOOKING FOR?

I WONDER IF SHE HERSELF KNOWS. SHE REFUSED MY SON BUT GAVE NO REASON.

PRABHAVATI WAS ON HER WAY TO MEET HER FAVOURITE COUSINS AND CONFIDANTS.



CHANDRAVATI AND GUNAVATI WILL BE WAITING FOR ME BY THE TANK. I MUST HURRY.

AS SHE WALKED DOWN THE PASSAGE, SHE HAD TO PASS HER FATHER'S CHAMBER.

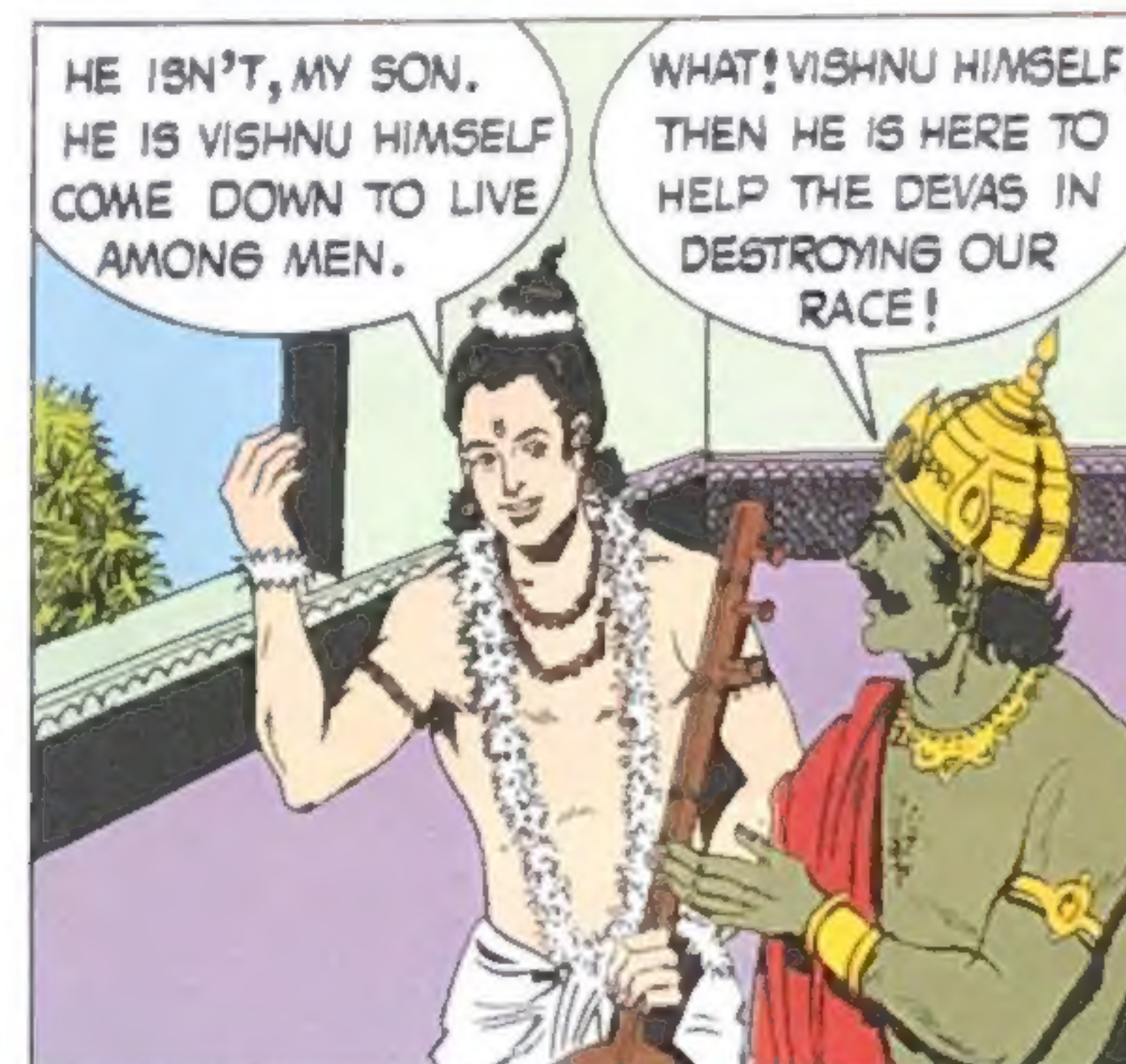


A MAN'S VOICE? IN THE INNER APARTMENTS? WHO COULD IT BE?



OH, IT'S THE SAGE NARADA! THEY SPEAK OF KRISHNA.

WHERE DOES THAT YADAVA GET HIS POWER FROM? AFTER ALL, HE IS A MERE MORTAL!

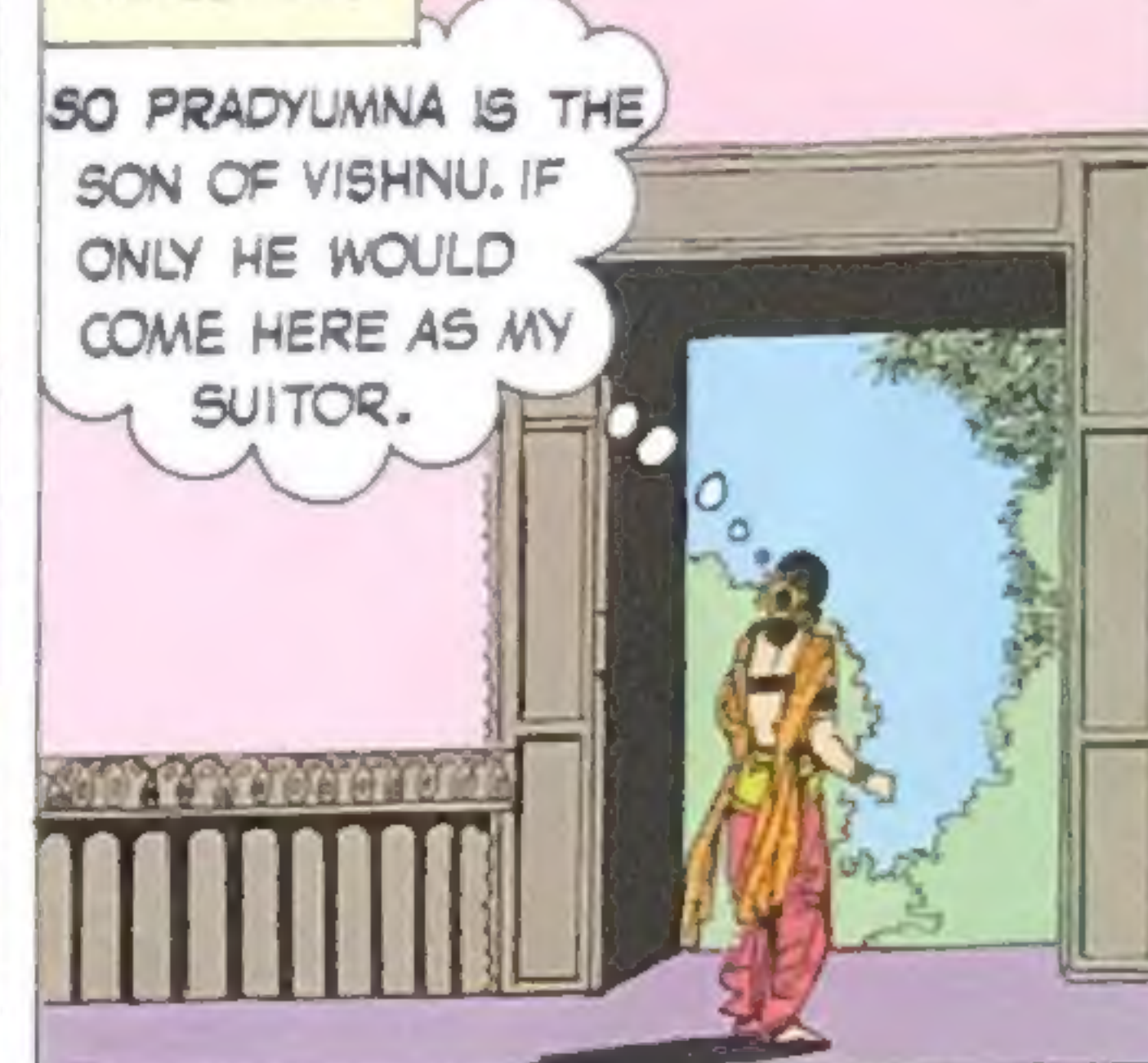


HE ISN'T, MY SON. HE IS VISHNU HIMSELF COME DOWN TO LIVE AMONG MEN.

WHAT! VISHNU HIMSELF! THEN HE IS HERE TO HELP THE DEVAS IN DESTROYING OUR RACE!

PRABHAVATI HAD HEARD ENOUGH. SHE MOVED ON.

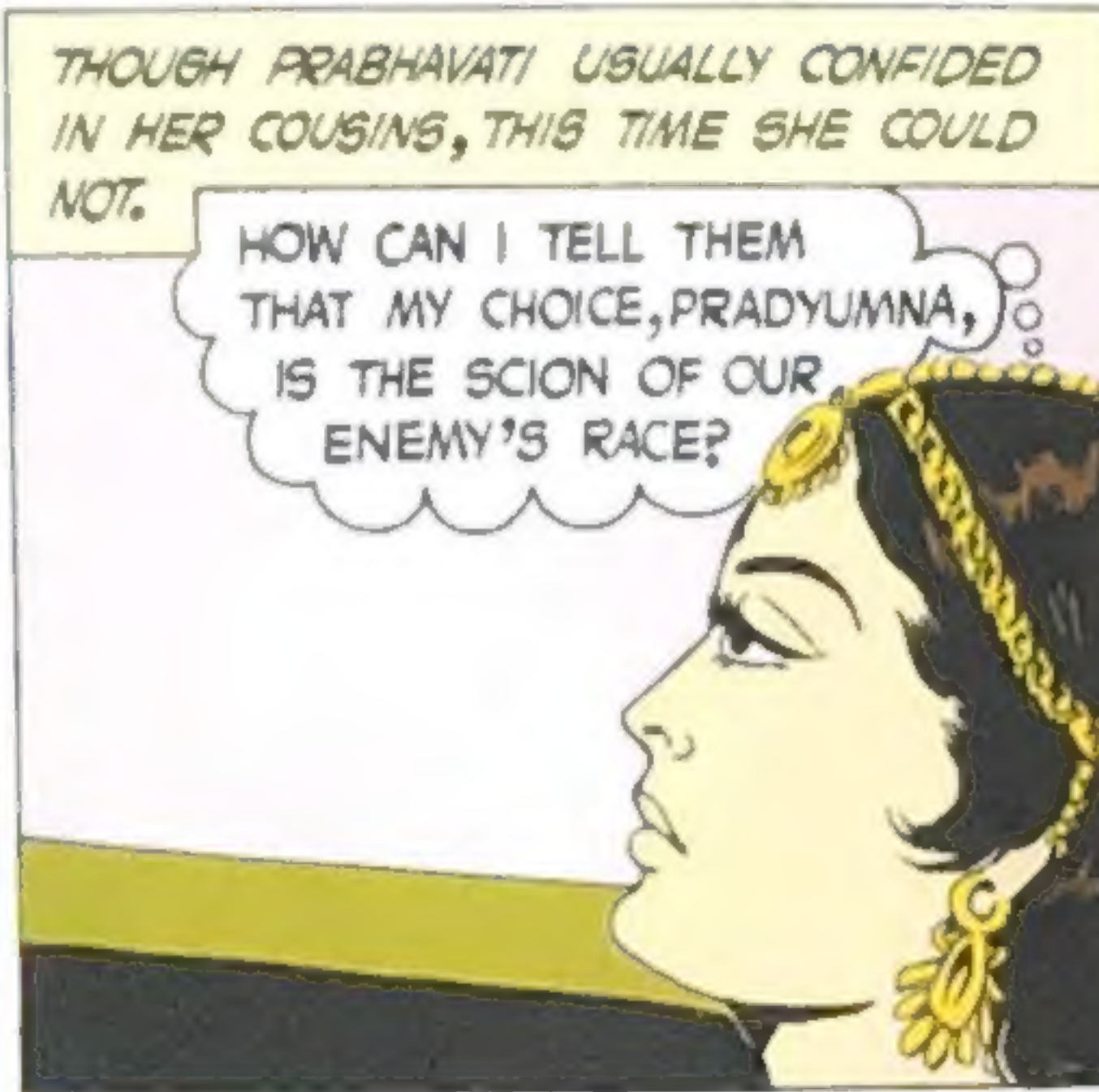
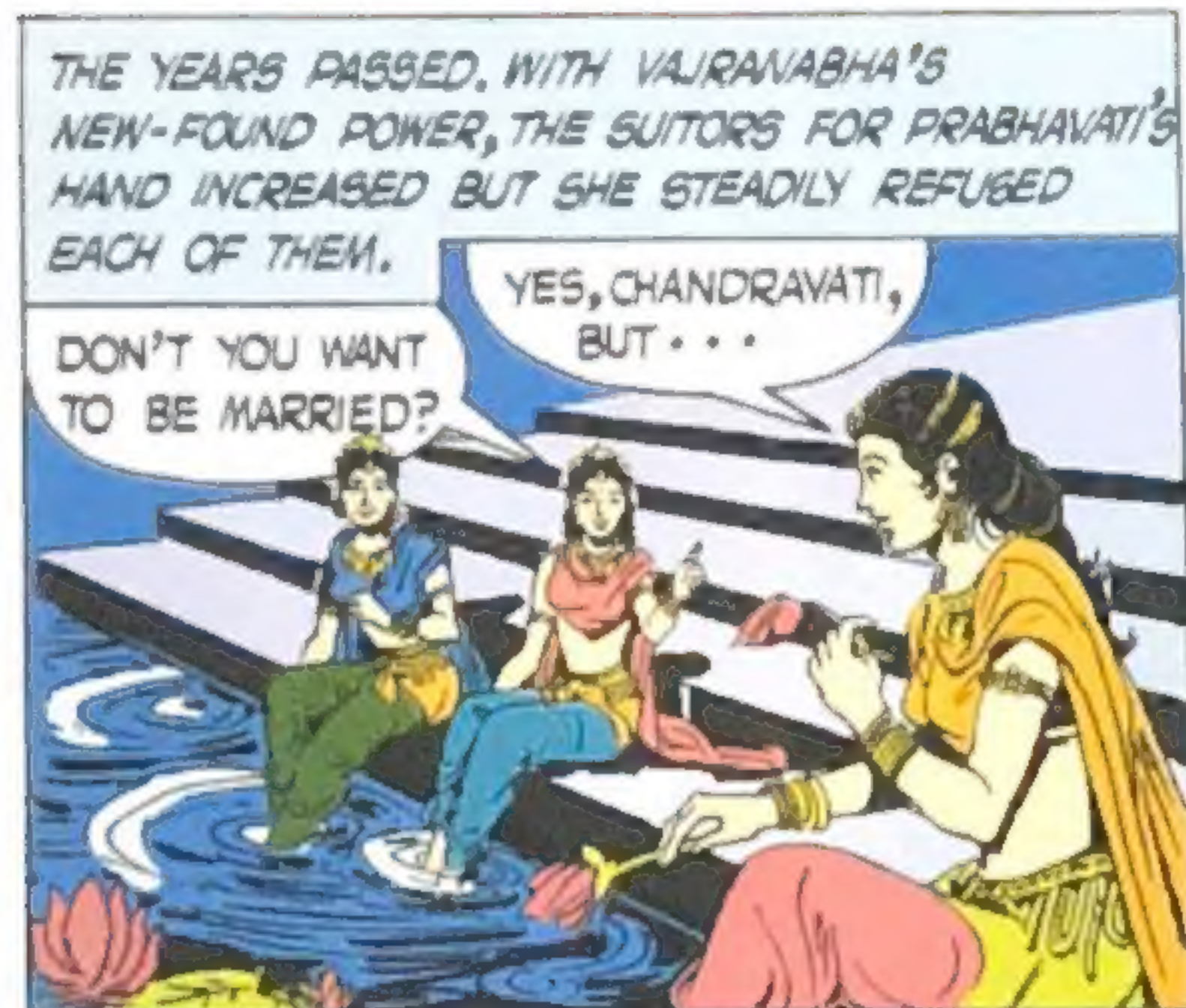
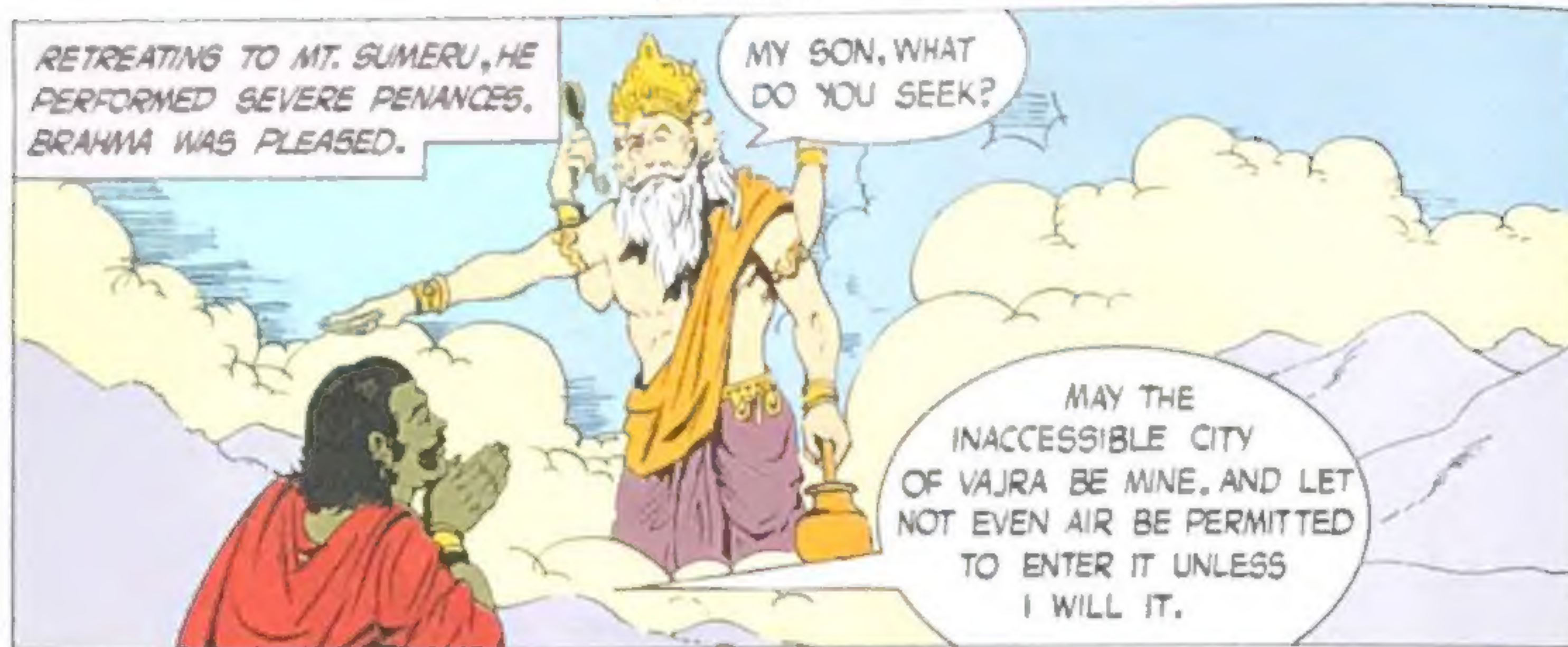
SO PRADYUMNA IS THE SON OF VISHNU. IF ONLY HE WOULD COME HERE AS MY SUITOR.



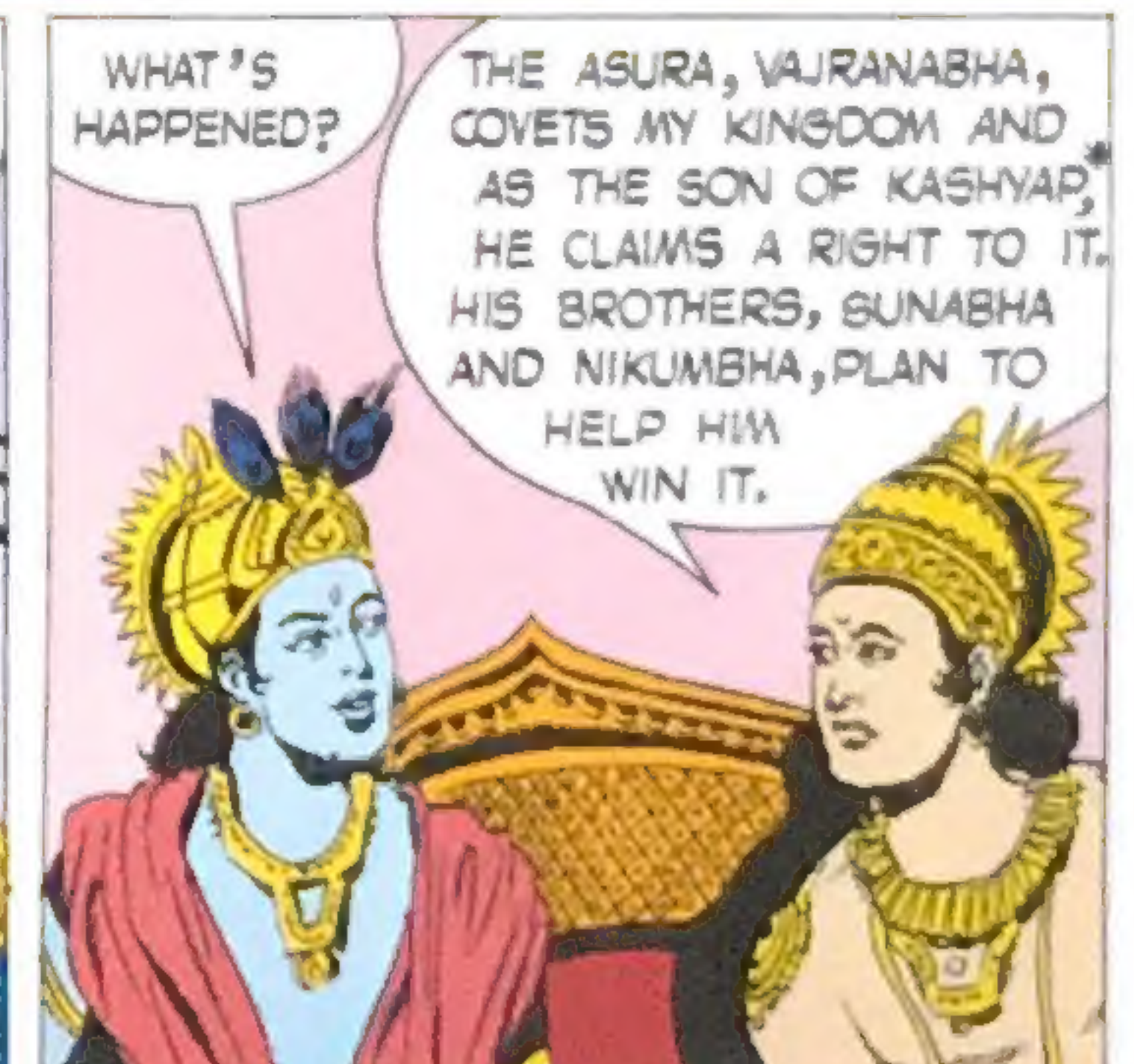
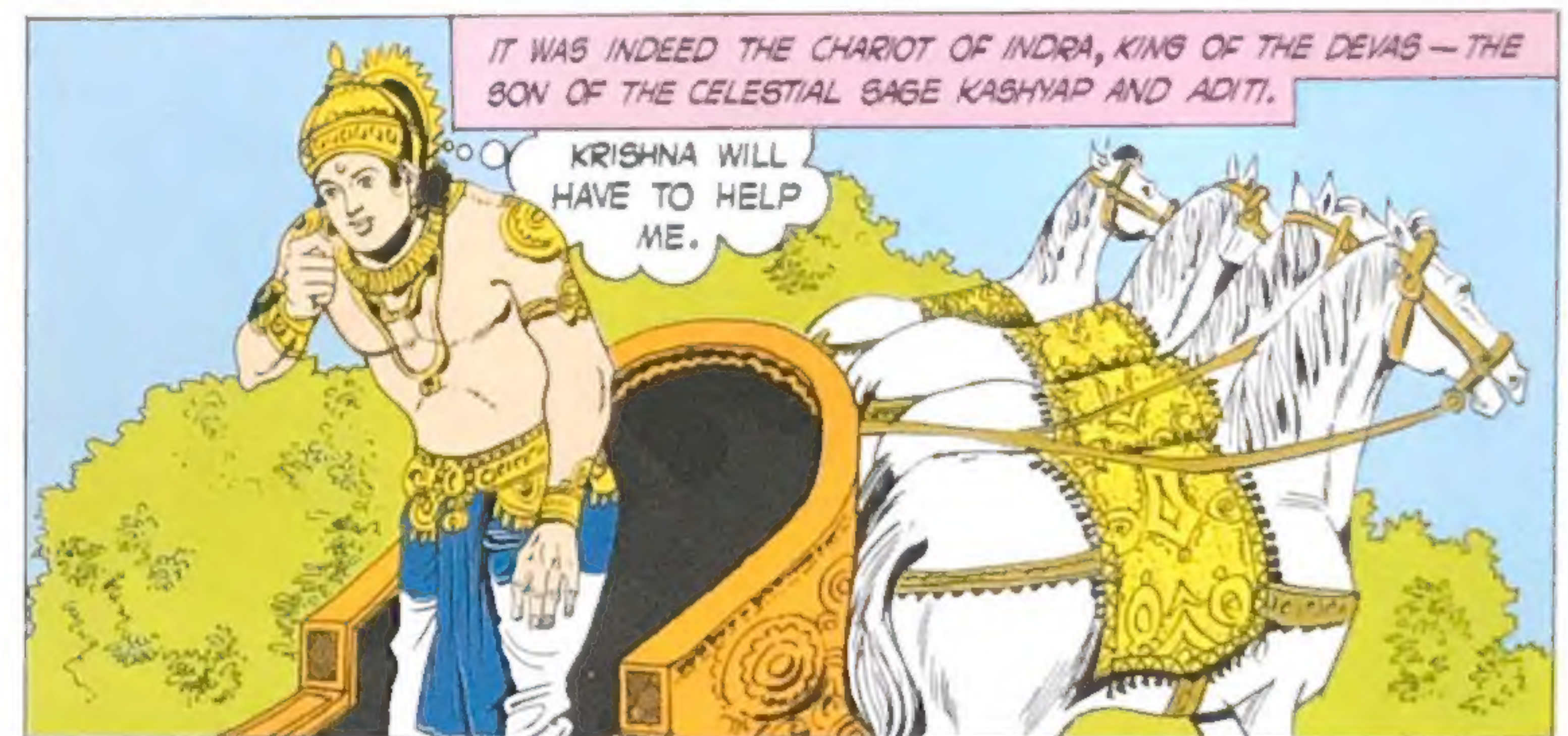
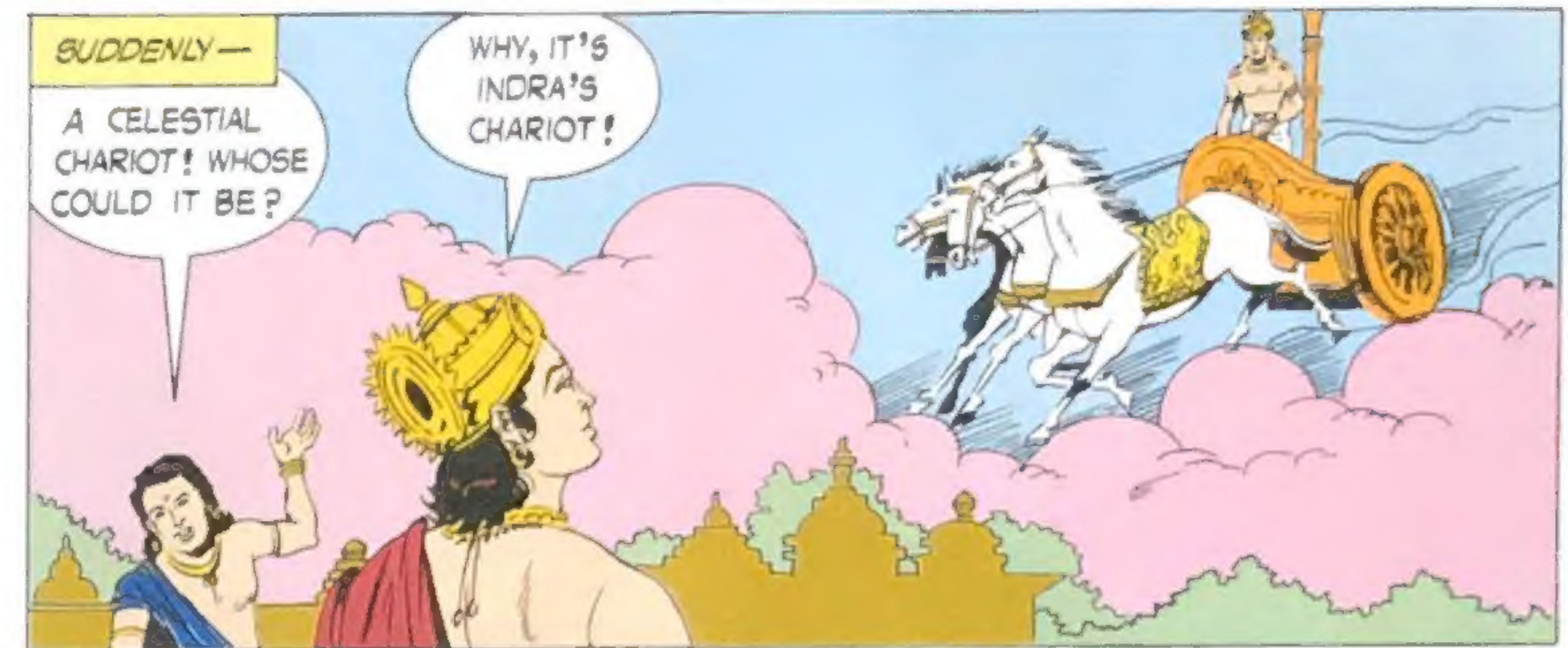
MEANWHILE, NARADA HAD LEFT AND VAJRANABHA SAT BROODING.



IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE THE YADAVA ATTACKS ME. I MUST DO SOMETHING TO PROTECT MYSELF AND MY PEOPLE.



PRADYUMNA, UNAWARE OF ALL THIS, WAS BUSY WITH THE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE SAGES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR THE HORSE SACRIFICE OF VASUDEVA, HIS GRANDFATHER.

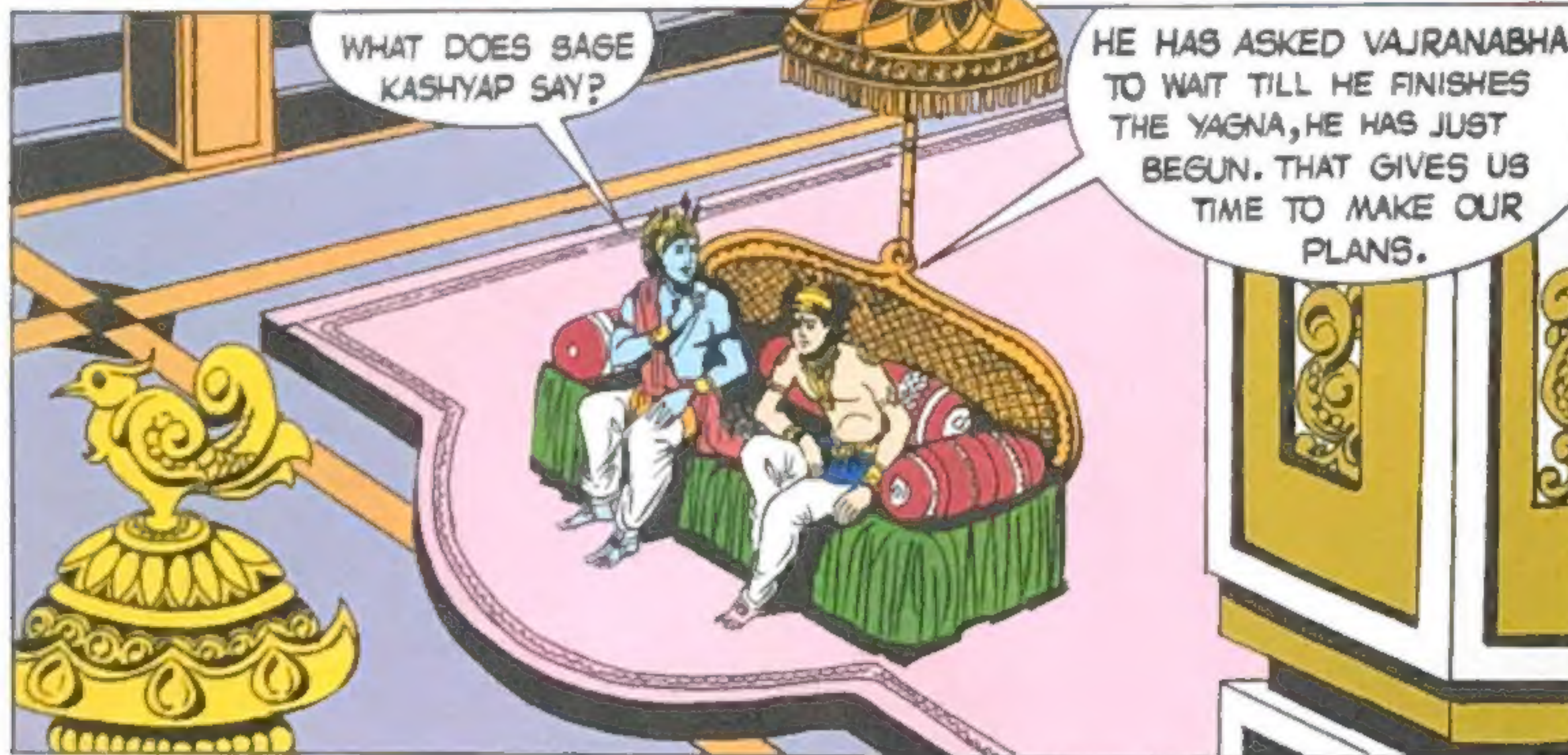


* VAJRANABHA WAS THE SON OF KASHYAP AND DITI, ADITI'S SISTER



DON'T WORRY, INDRA. LET MY FATHER'S SACRIFICE BE COMPLETED AND I'LL GO AND KILL THE GREEDY ASURA AND HIS BROTHERS.

YOU CAN'T. BRAHMA'S BOON PROTECTS HIM. NOT EVEN AIR ENTERS HIS CITY, UNLESS HE WILLS IT.



WHAT DOES SAGE KASHYAP SAY?

HE HAS ASKED VAJRANABHA TO WAIT TILL HE FINISHES THE YAGNA, HE HAS JUST BEGUN. THAT GIVES US TIME TO MAKE OUR PLANS.



JUST THEN PRADYUMNA ENTERED.

WELCOME, O KING. THE ACTORS ARE READY. THE SAGES ARE ASSEMBLED IN THE HALL.

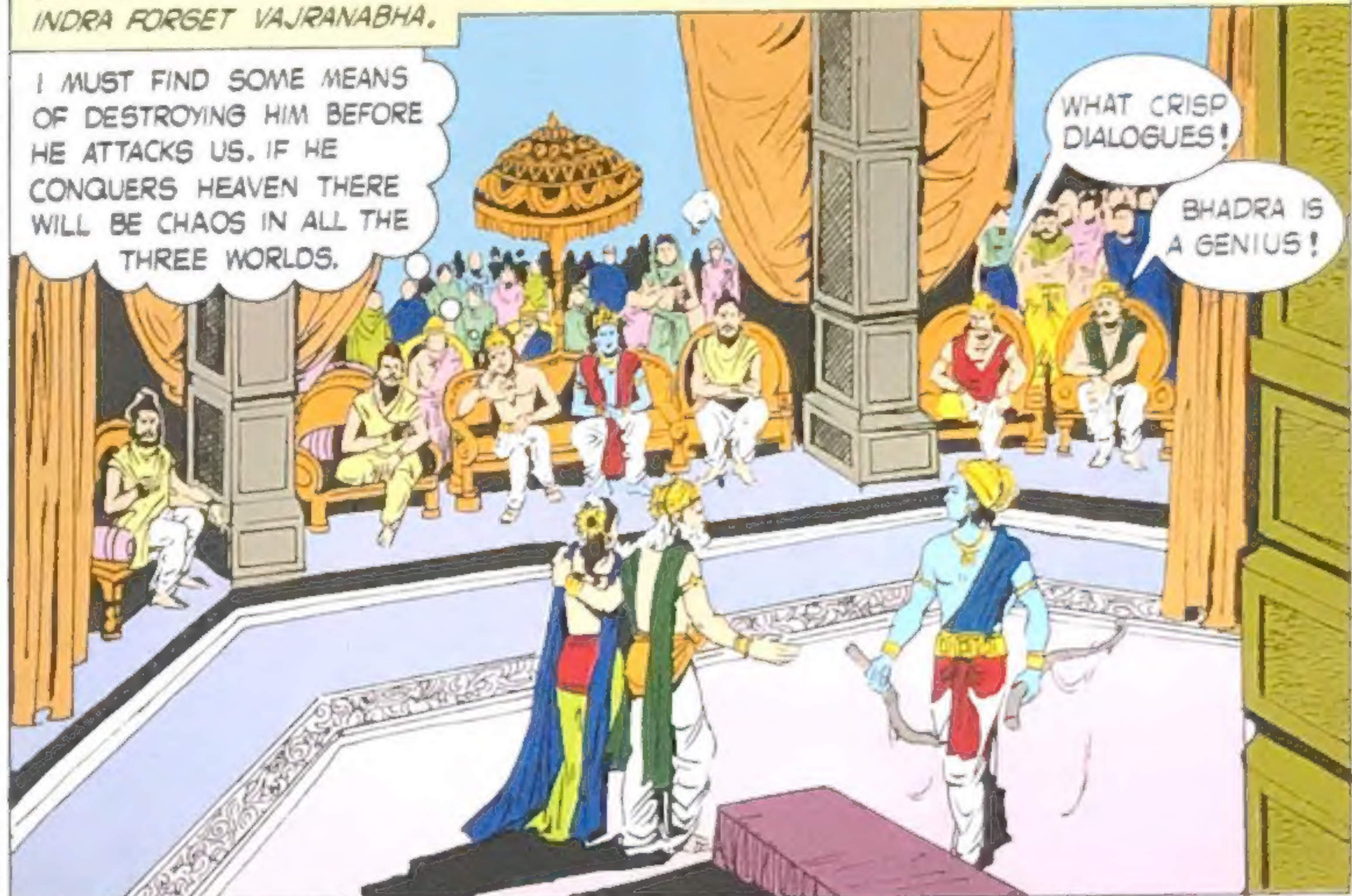
WHAT A HANDSOME YOUTH IS PRADYUMNA!



COME, WATCH THE PERFORMANCE OF BHADRA AND FORGET YOUR TROUBLES FOR A WHILE.

BUT EVEN THE EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE OF BHADRA AND HIS TROUPE COULD NOT MAKE INDRA FORGET VAJRANABHA.

I MUST FIND SOME MEANS OF DESTROYING HIM BEFORE HE ATTACKS US. IF HE CONQUERS HEAVEN THERE WILL BE CHAOS IN ALL THE THREE WORLDS.



WHAT CRISP DIALOGUES!

BHADRA IS A GENIUS!

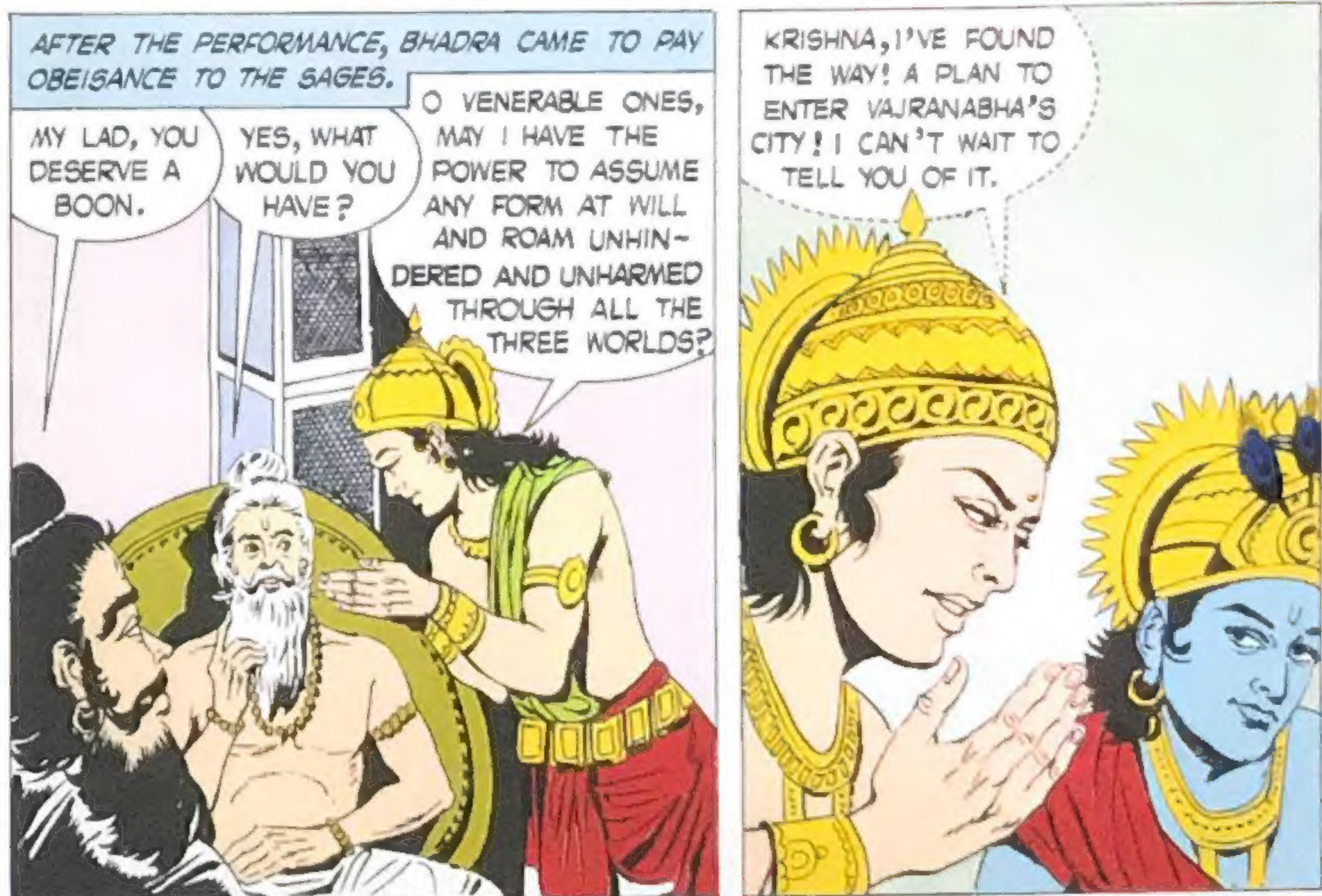
AFTER THE PERFORMANCE, BHADRA CAME TO PAY OBEISANCE TO THE SAGES.

MY LAD, YOU DESERVE A BOON.

YES, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE?

O VENERABLE ONES, MAY I HAVE THE POWER TO ASSUME ANY FORM AT WILL AND ROAM UNHINDERED AND UNHARMED THROUGH ALL THE THREE WORLDS?

KRISHNA, I'VE FOUND THE WAY! A PLAN TO ENTER VAJRANABHA'S CITY! I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL YOU OF IT.

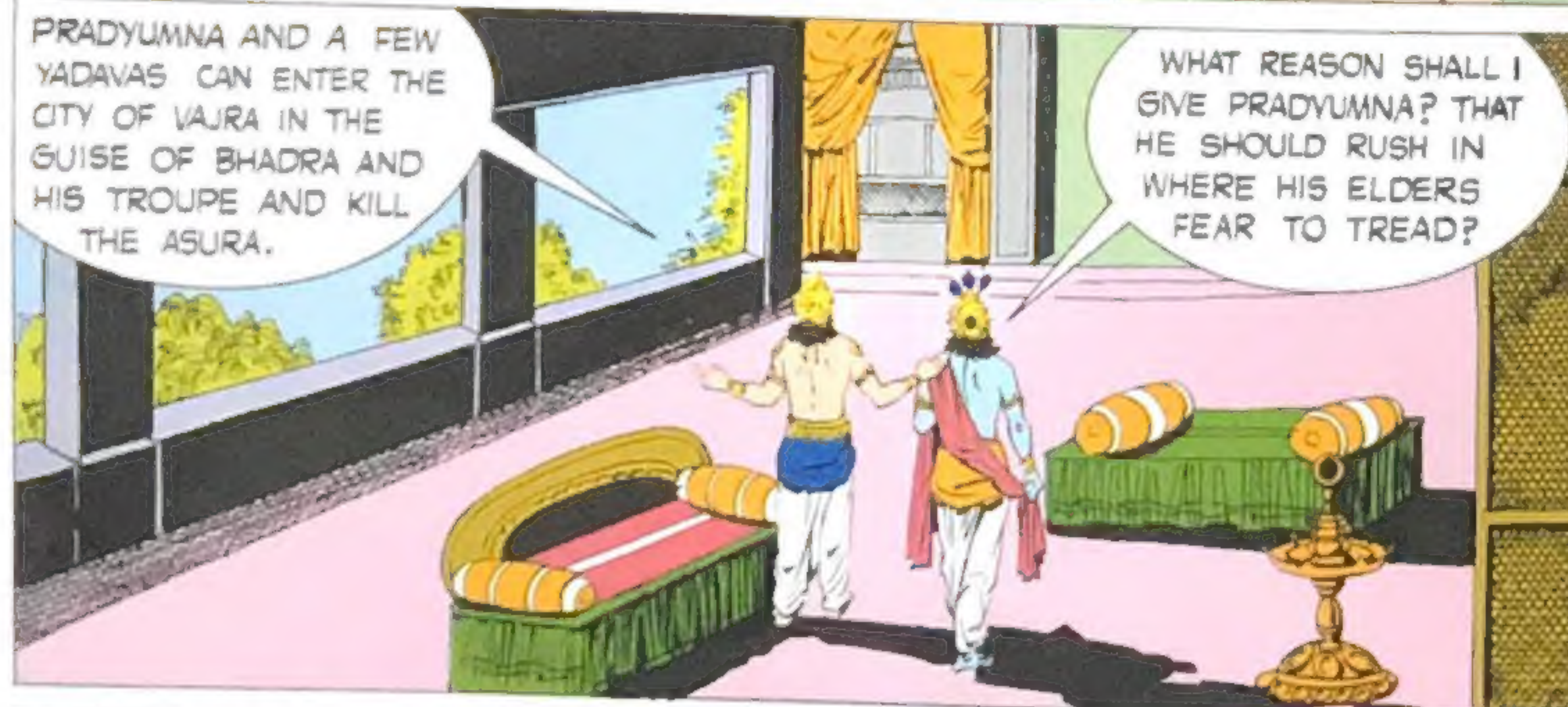




DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT PRADYUMNA, SLAYING SHAMBARA, HAD ACQUIRED THE ASURA'S MAGIC SKILLS? THAT MAYAVATI* HERSELF TRAINED HIM TO BE A PERFECT ILLUSIONIST?



YES, BUT... AND HERE'S BHADRA'S NEW BOON ENABLING HIM TO ROAM ALL THE THREE WORLDS AT WILL.



PRADYUMNA AND A FEW YADAVAS CAN ENTER THE CITY OF VAJRA IN THE GUISE OF BHADRA AND HIS TROUPE AND KILL THE ASURA.

WHAT REASON SHALL I GIVE PRADYUMNA? THAT HE SHOULD RUSH IN WHERE HIS ELDERS FEAR TO TREAD?



WELL, VAJIRANABHA HAS A DAUGHTER; BEAUTIFUL, UNMARRIED...

ENOUGH REASON FOR MY SON. BUT VAJIRANABHA MUST HEAR OF BHADRA'S TALENTS AND HIS DAUGHTER, OF PRADYUMNA'S VALOUR.

* GEE PRADYUMNA — NO. 760



LEAVE THAT TO ME. MY CLEVER CELESTIAL SWANS WHO OFTEN VISIT THE GARDENS OF VAJRA TO BRING ME NEWS ABOUT THE ASURAS, WILL MANAGE IT.

THEN THE ASURA KING IS AS GOOD AS VANQUISHED. PRADYUMNA WILL NOT FAIL US.



HEAVING A SIGH OF RELIEF, INDRA LEFT DWARAKA.



AS SOON AS HE REACHED HIS PALACE, INDRA SENT FOR THE CELESTIAL SWANS.

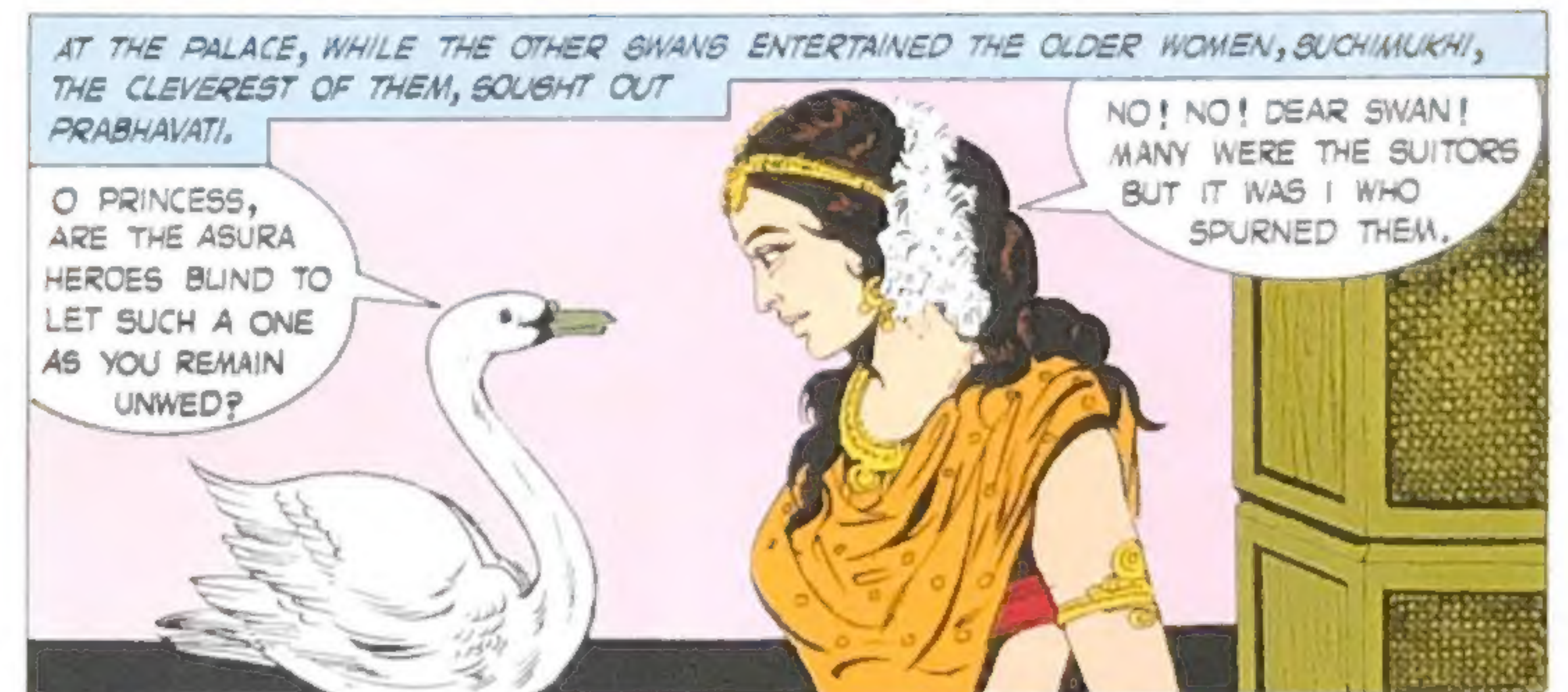
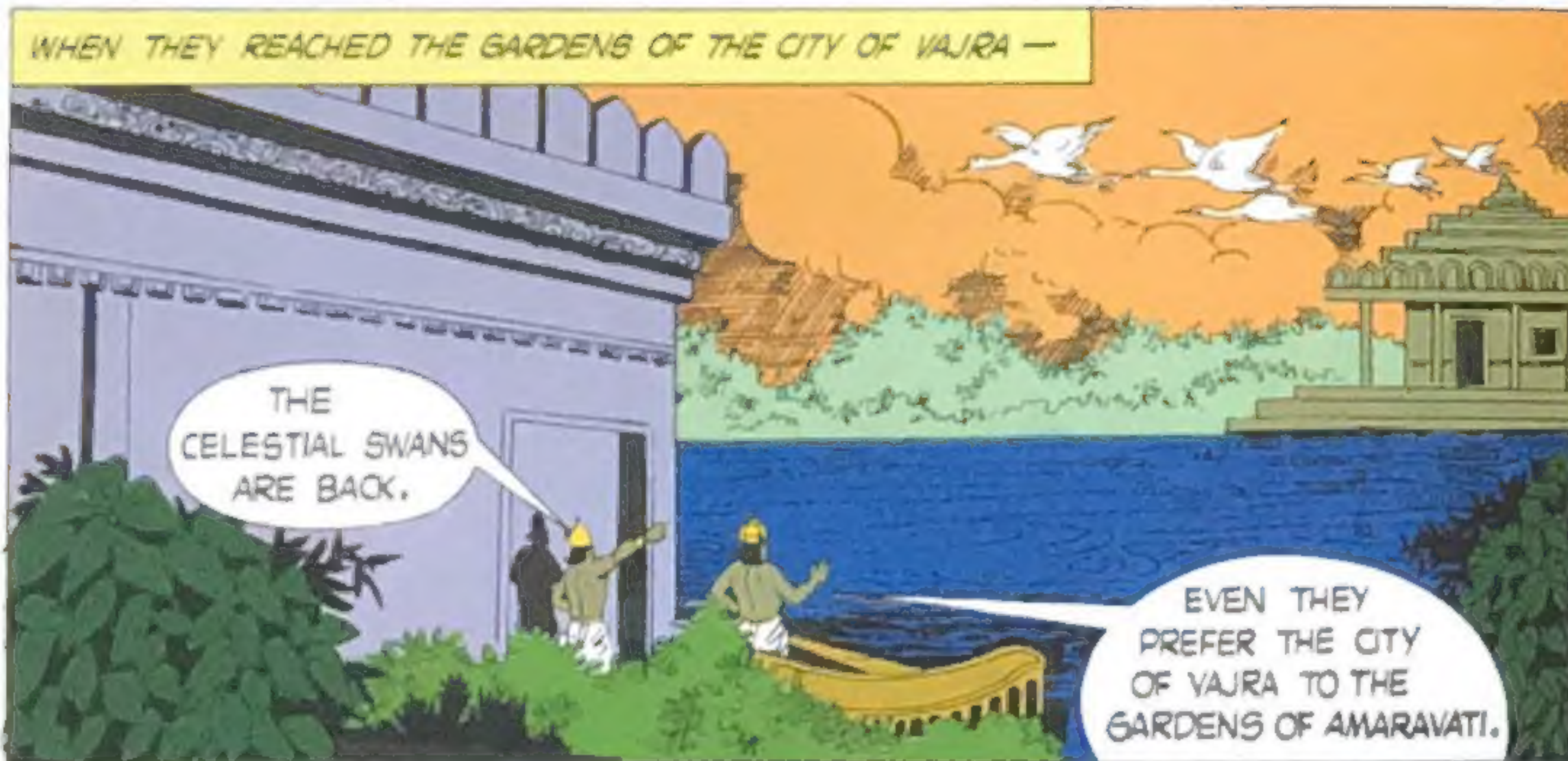
TO SERVE OUR ENDS, YOU HID YOUR POWER OF SPEECH FROM THE ASURAS. USE IT NOW AND HELP ME FINISH OUR ENEMY.

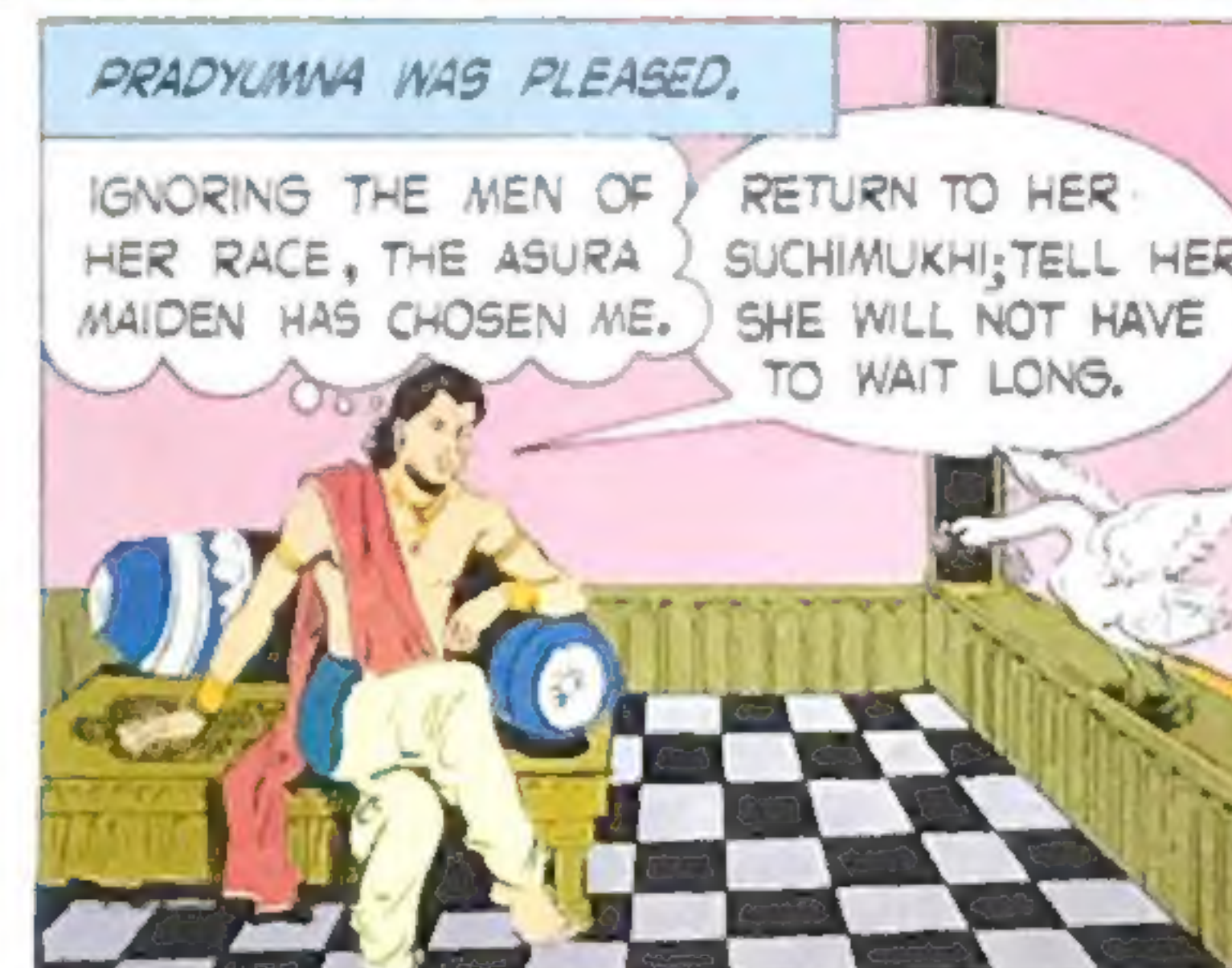
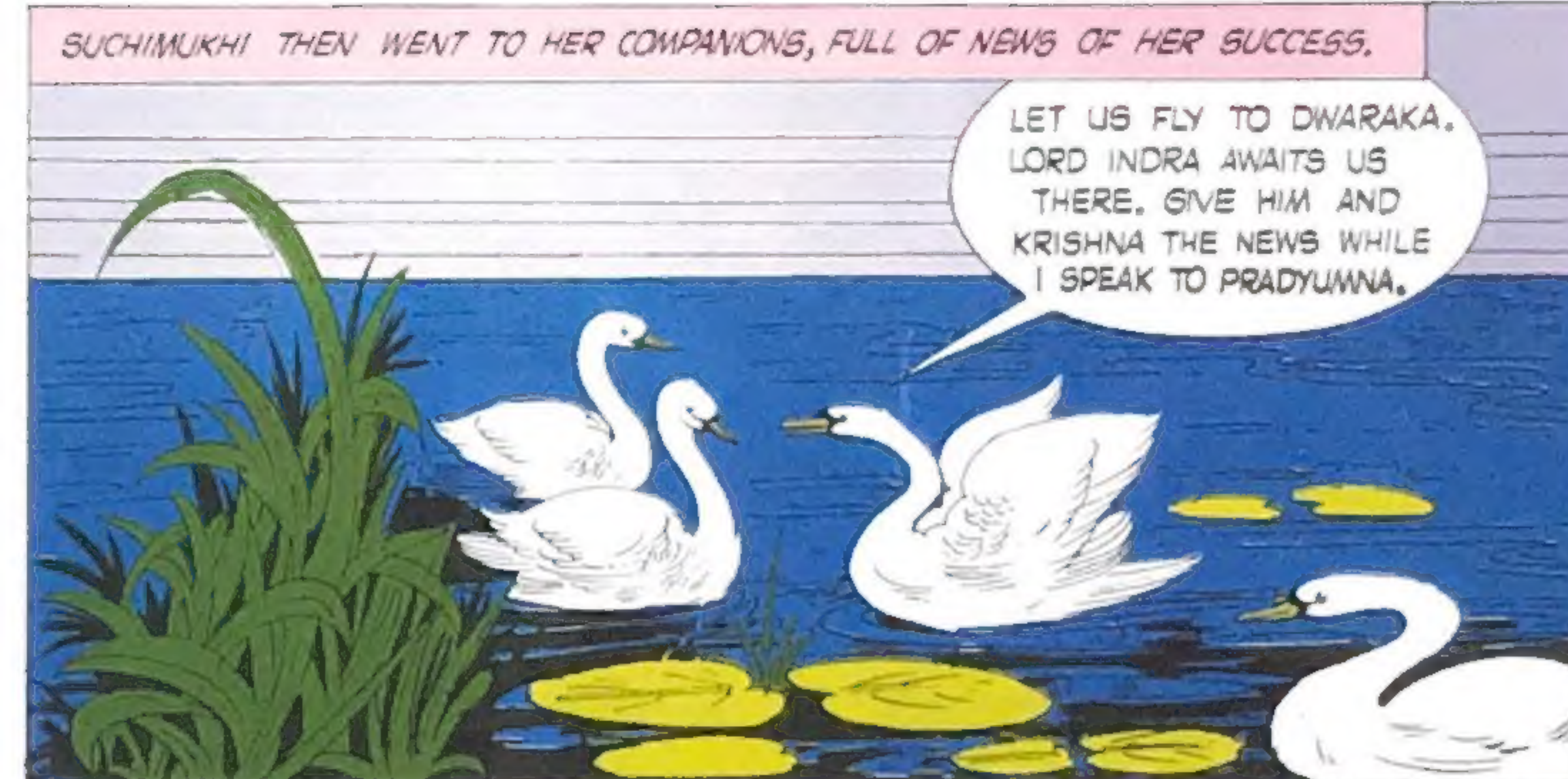


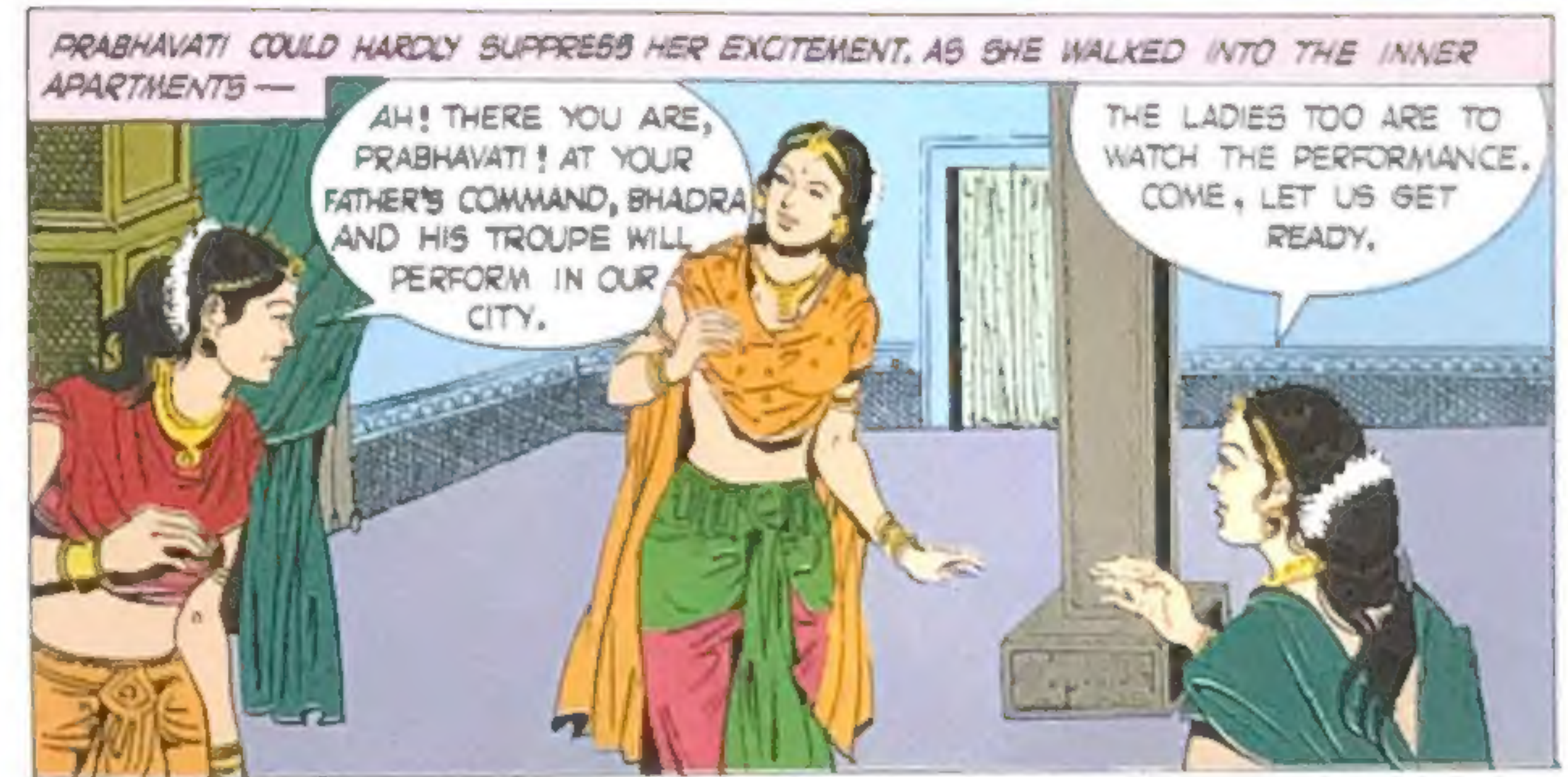
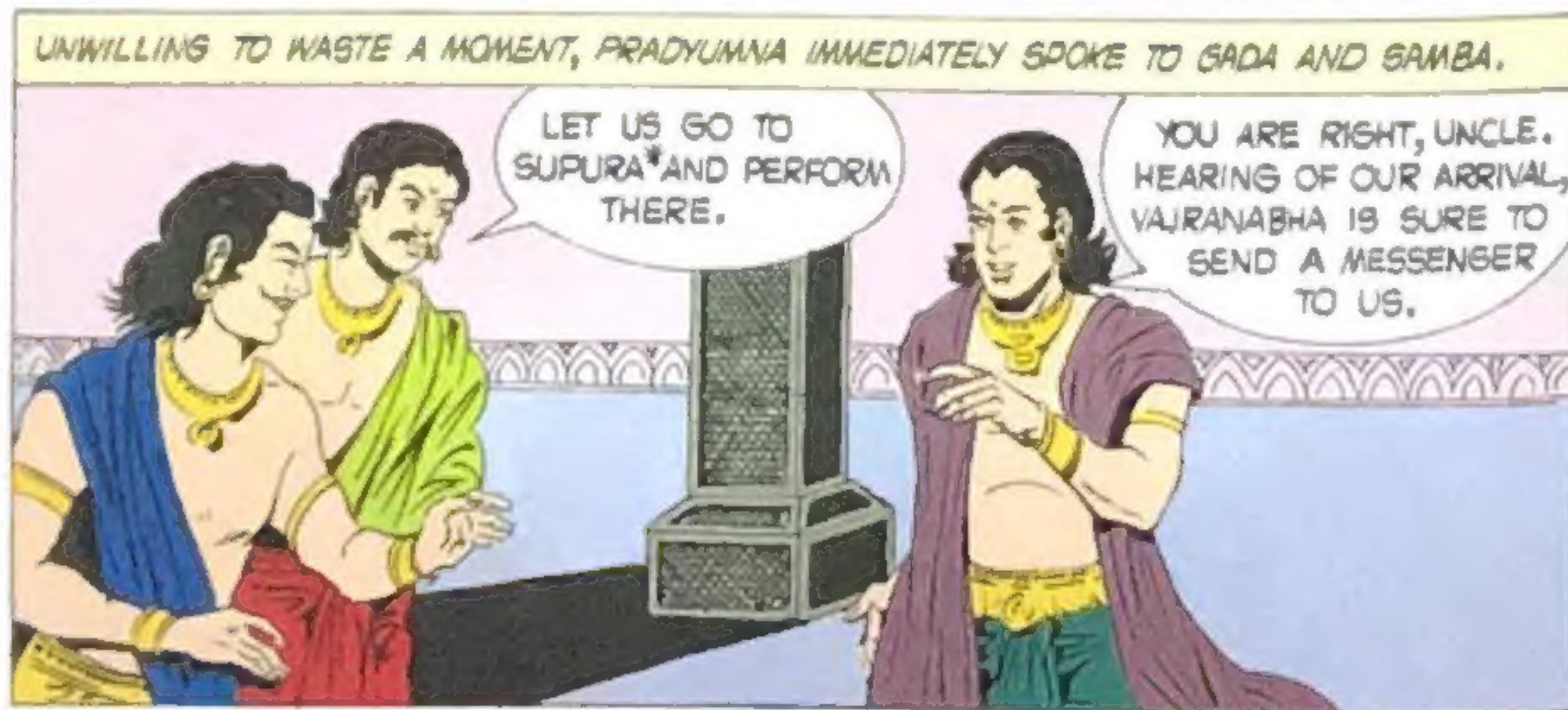
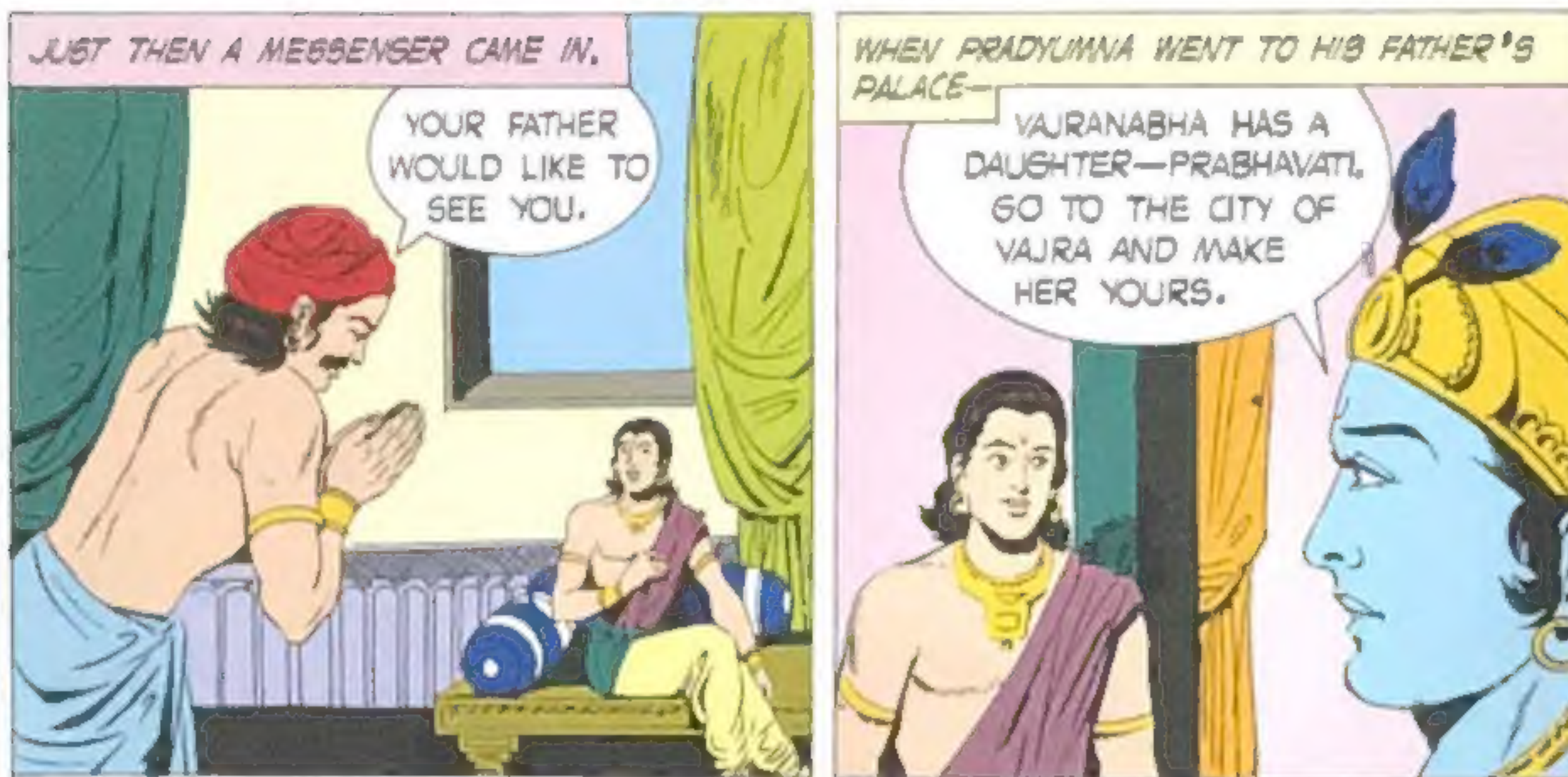
AND INDRA TOLD THEM WHAT THEY SHOULD DO.

...YOU MUST NOT REST TILL OUR END IS ACHIEVED.

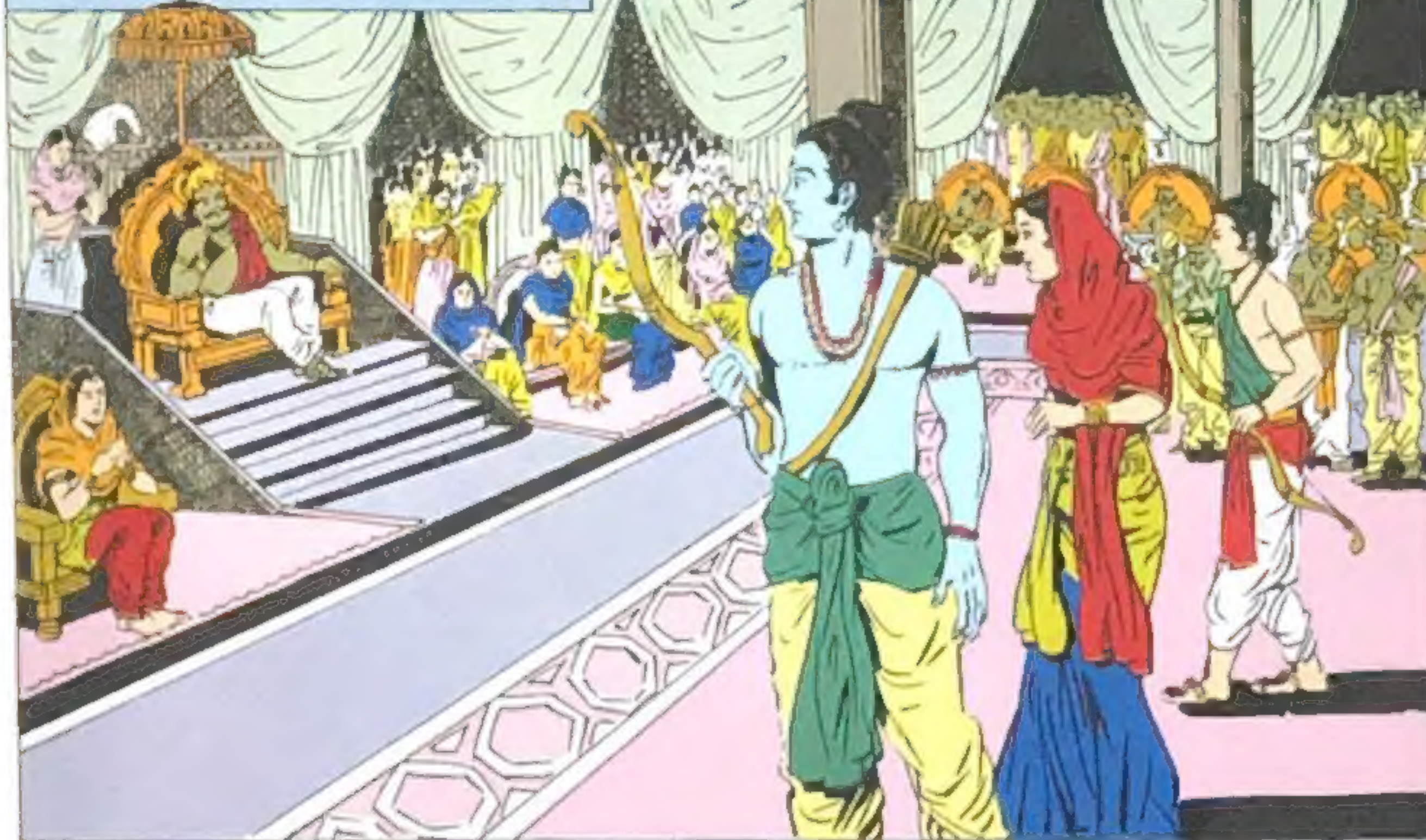








THAT EVENING, PRABHAVATI WATCHED SPELLBOUND AS PRADYUMNA SKILFULLY RENDERED HIS ROLE, BETTERING BHADRA HIMSELF.



AS SOON AS THE PERFORMANCE WAS OVER, THE TROUPE RETIRED TO THE PALACE SPECIALLY BUILT FOR THEM. AS PRADYUMNA RELAXED, SUCHIMUKHI FLEW IN.



YOU ARE IN TIME. TELL THE PRINCESS THAT I WILL MARRY HER TONIGHT.

BEFORE I SHOW MYSELF TO HER, I MUST MAKE SURE THAT SHE LOVES ME.



SUDDENLY, A MAID PASSING BY CAUGHT HIS ATTENTION.



WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THAT GARLAND, MY GOOD WOMAN?

TO THE PRINCESS. SHE ASKED US TO DELIVER IT BEFORE NIGHTFALL.

AS THE MAID WALKED AWAY, PRADYUMNA TURNED HIMSELF INTO A BEETLE...



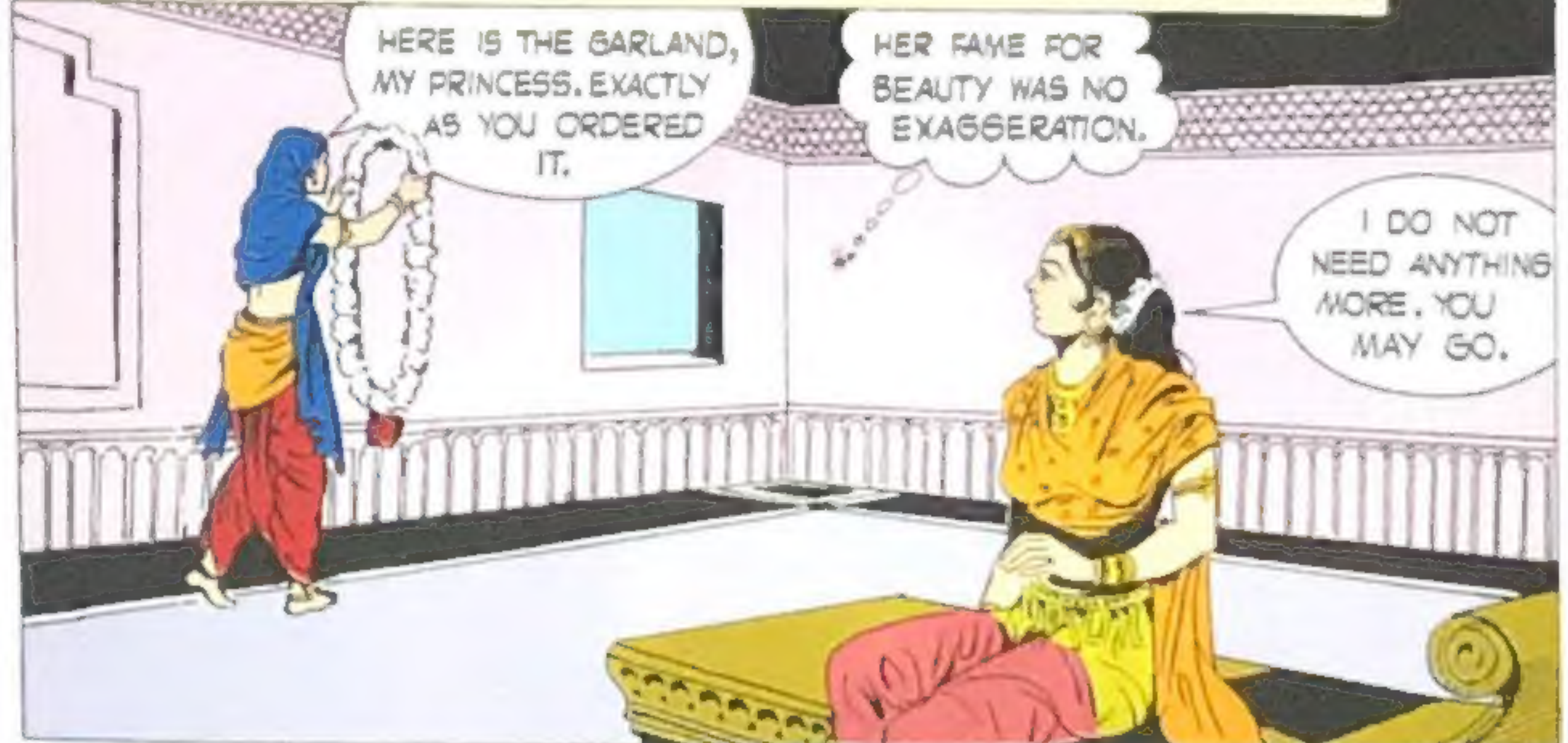
...AND FLYING TOWARDS THE MAID...



...PERCHED ON THE GARLAND.



THE MAID ENTERED THE PRINCESS'S CHAMBER AND LEFT THE GARLAND ON A NAIL.



HERE IS THE GARLAND, MY PRINCESS. EXACTLY AS YOU ORDERED IT.

HER FAME FOR BEAUTY WAS NO EXAGGERATION.

I DO NOT NEED ANYTHING MORE. YOU MAY GO.

AS THE MAID LEFT, SUCHIMUKHI FLEW IN.



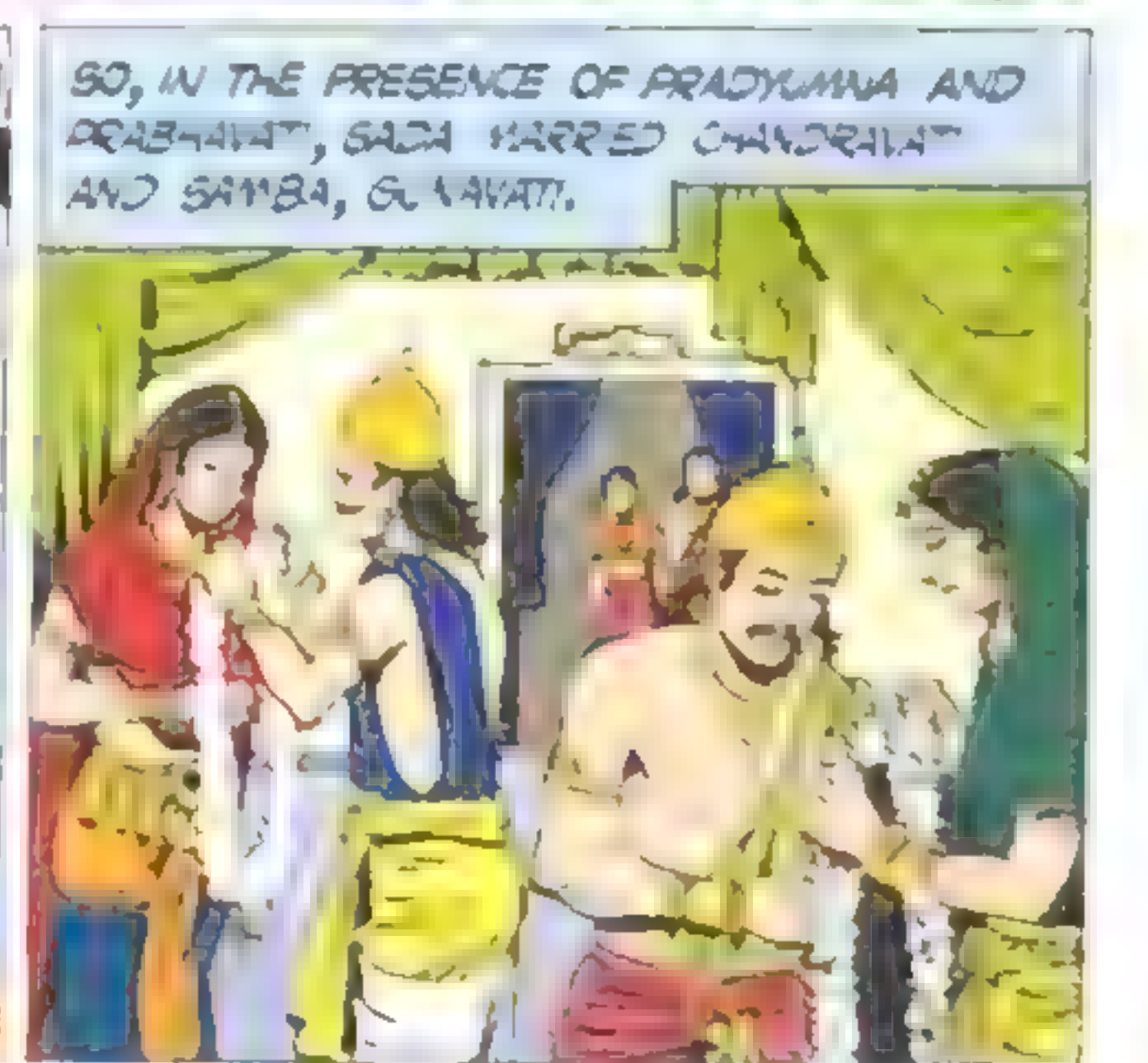
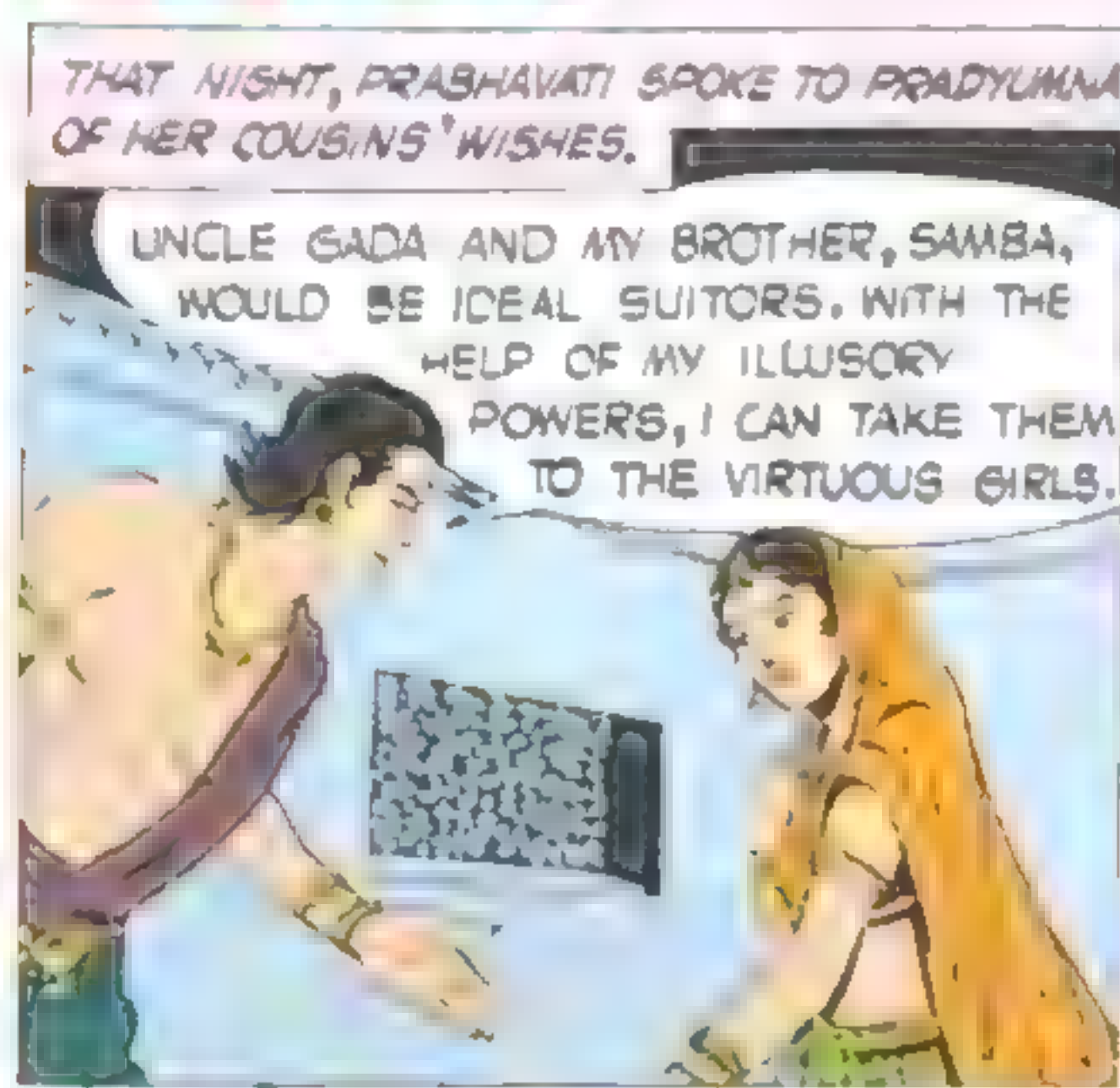
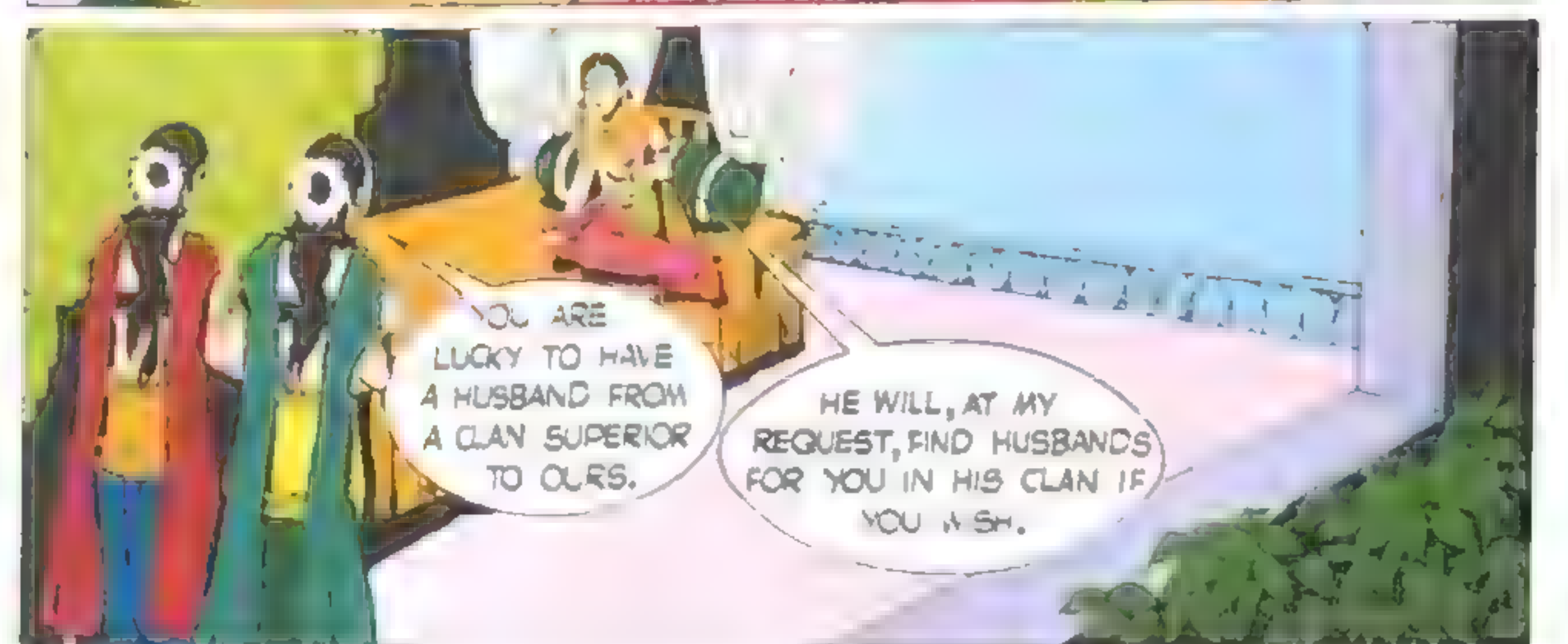
HE WILL SOON BE HERE.

TO PRABHAVATI, EACH MINUTE SEEMED AN ETERNITY.

WHY DOESN'T HE COME? HAS HE CHANGED HIS MIND? IF HE HAS, I SHALL TURN MAD AND DIE.

MY DOUBTS VANISH AT THESE WORDS. I CAN NOW SHOW MYSELF TO HER.





A FEW DAYS LATER—

SUCHMUKHI! YOU'RE BACK. DID YOU INFORM MY FATHER AND THE KING OF THE DEVAS OF THE WEDDINGS?

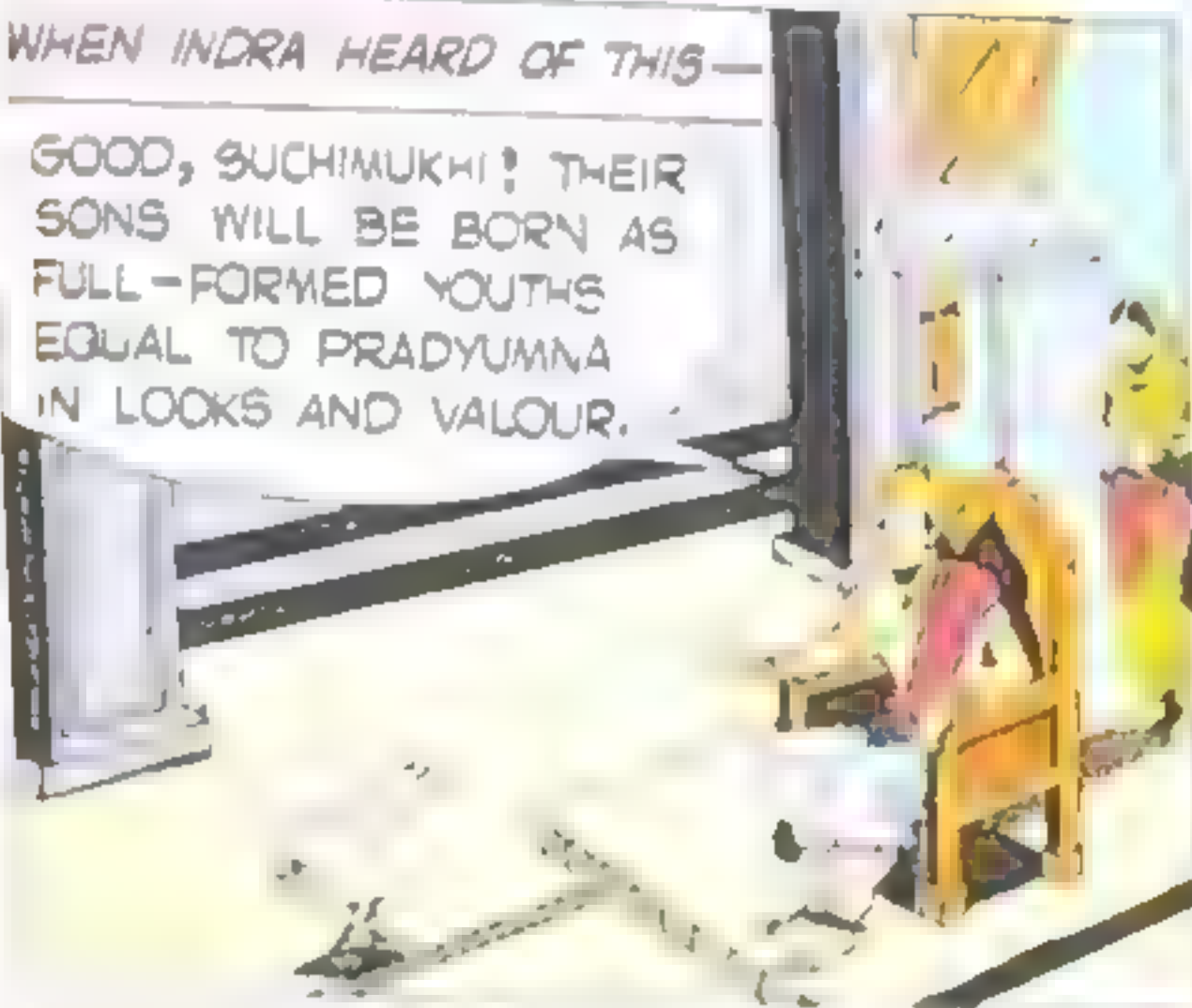


O.O. THEY ASKED YOU TO CONTINUE TO LIVE HERE AND AWAIT THEIR ORDERS.

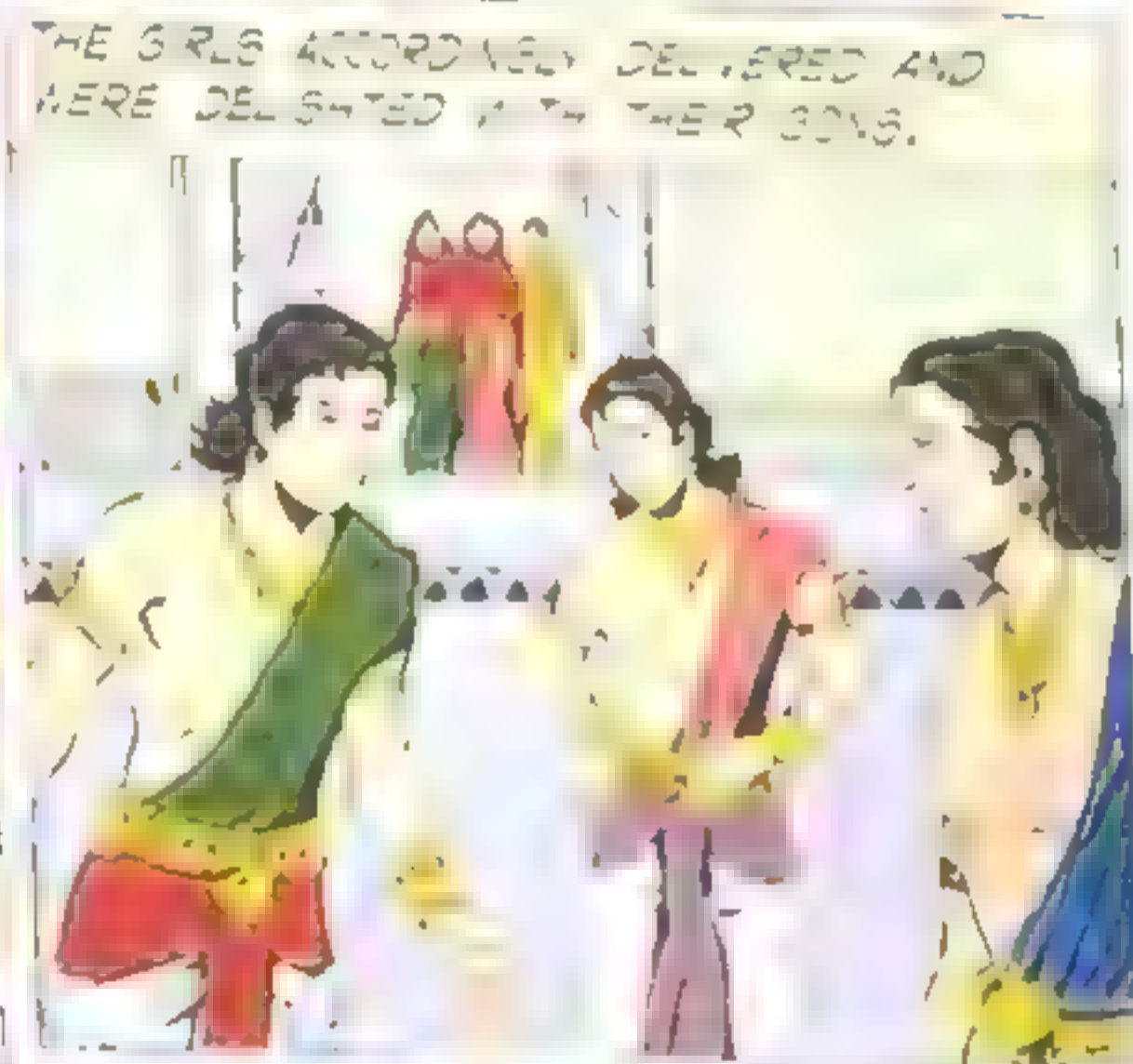
MONTHS PASSED AND THE THREE BRIDES WERE SOON TO BECOME MOTHERS.

WHEN INDRA HEARD OF THIS—

GOOD, SUCHMUKHI! THEIR SONS WILL BE BORN AS FULL-FORMED YOUTHS EQUAL TO PRADYUMNA IN LOOKS AND VALOUR.



THE GIRLS ACCORDINGLY DELIVERED AND WERE DELIGHTED WITH THEIR SONS.



MEANWHILE—

LORD, SAGE KASHYAP'S SACRIFICE IS COMPLETED. THE ASURAS WHO HAD GONE TO WITNESS IT, HAVE RETURNED.



AN AUSPICIOUS DAY FOR US. GET MY CHARIOT READY. I WILL REQUEST HIM TO TELL INDRA TO HAND AMARAVAT OVER TO US PEACEFULLY.

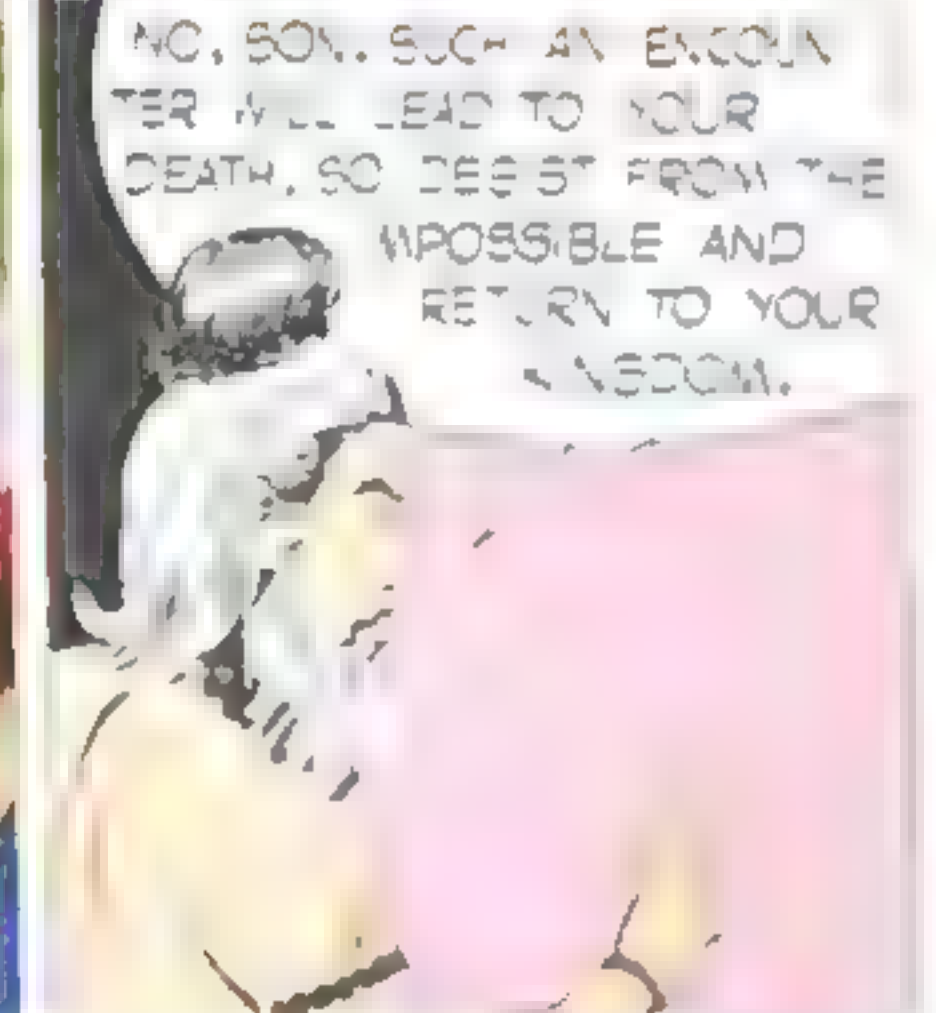
BUT WHEN VALRAYASHA SPOKE TO KASHYAP—



INDRA IS THE ELDEST AMONG YOU AND IS ENTITLED TO THE CELESTIAL KINGDOM.

BUT I AM STRONGER. I CAN KILL HIM AND TAKE IT AS MY OWN.

NO, SON. SUCH AN ENCOUNTER WILL LEAD TO YOUR DEATH, SO DESIST FROM THE IMPOSSIBLE AND RETURN TO YOUR KINGDOM.



VALRAYASHA DID RETURN, BUT SEETHING WITH FURY, IT WAS THE HOUR OF DARK.



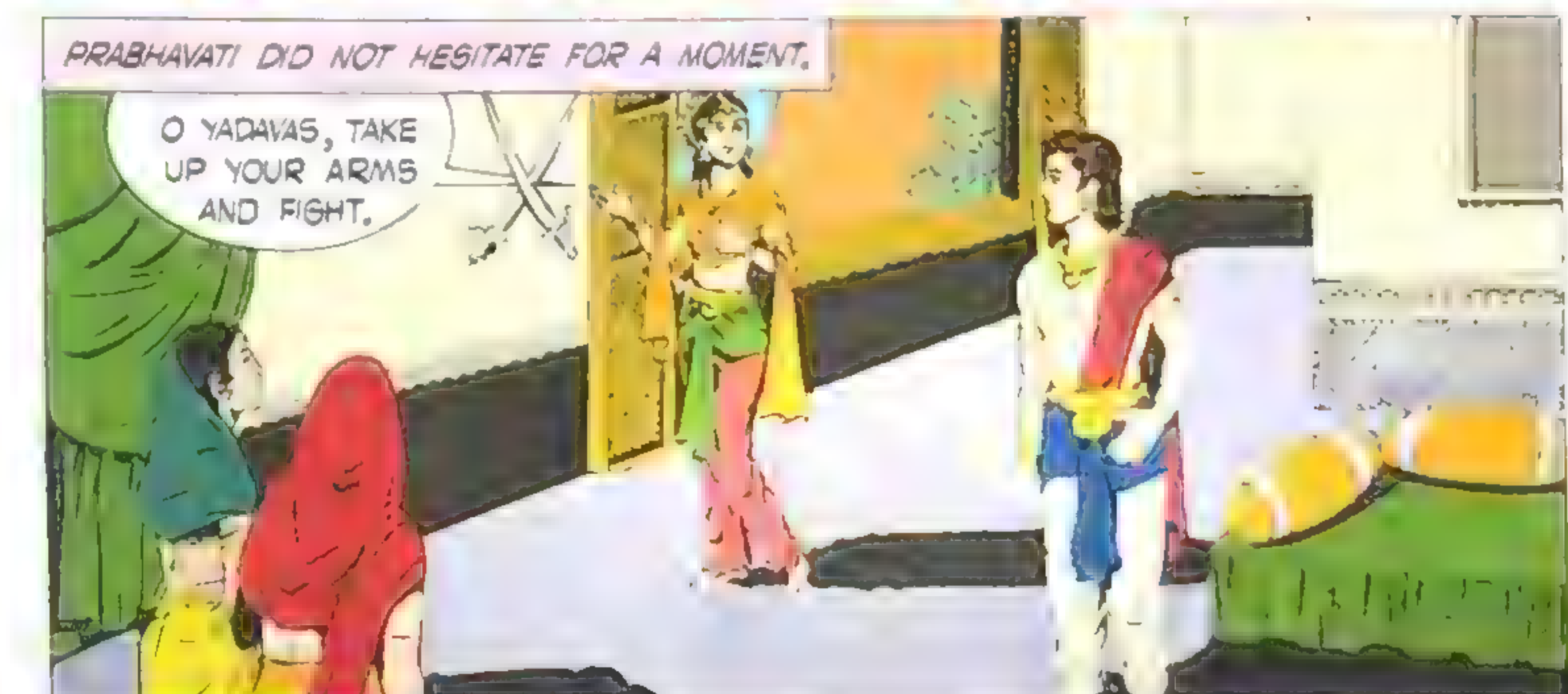
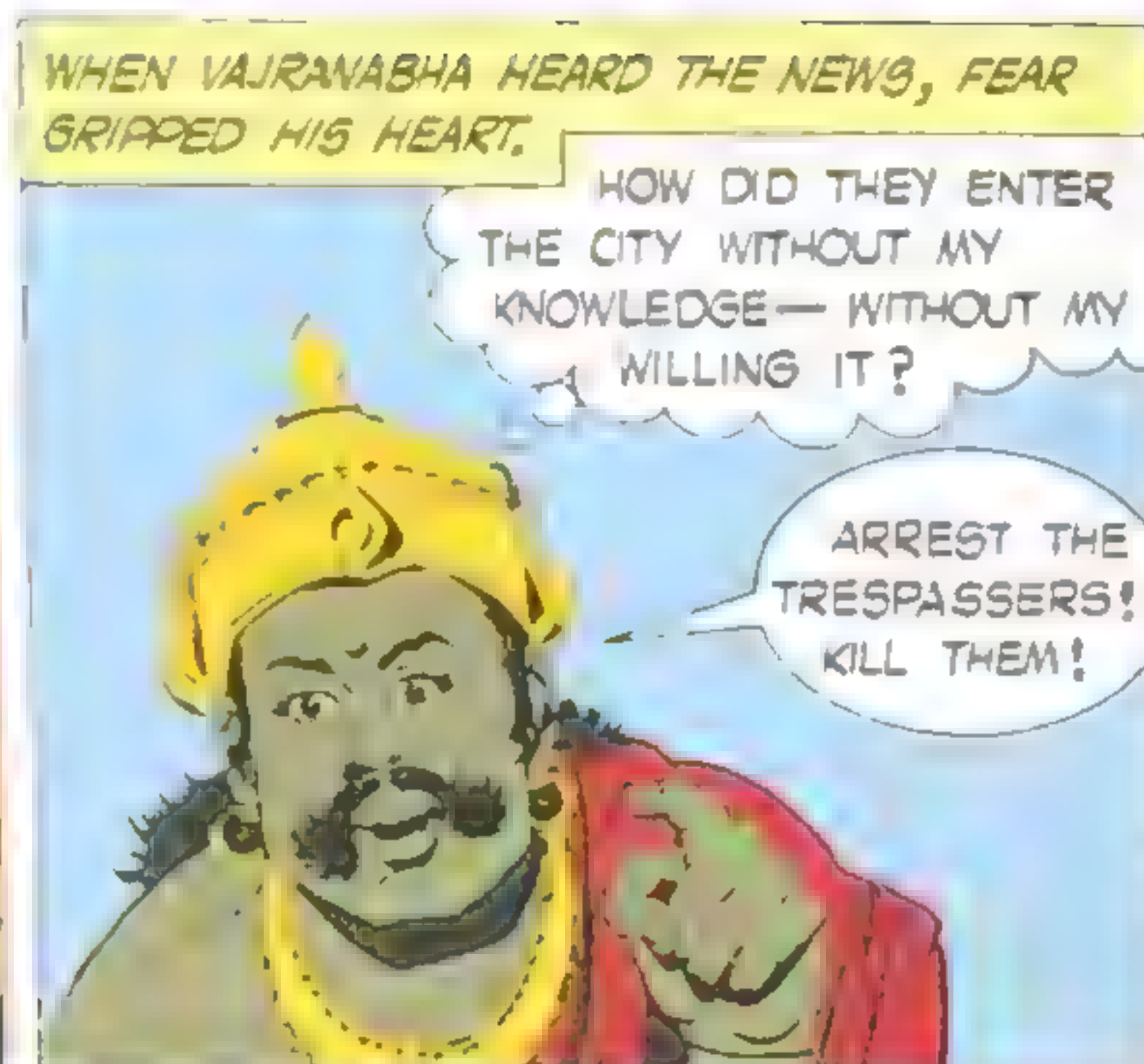
RALLY OUR FORCES. PREPARE FOR WAR AGAINST THE DEVAS. SHALL TAKE AMARAVAT. LET HIM WHO CAN PREVENT ME.

AT THAT MOMENT, TWO GUARDS WHO WERE PATROLLING THE BRICKS SAW THREE GIGANTIC HANDS ON THE TERRACE OF VALRAYASHA'S PALACE.



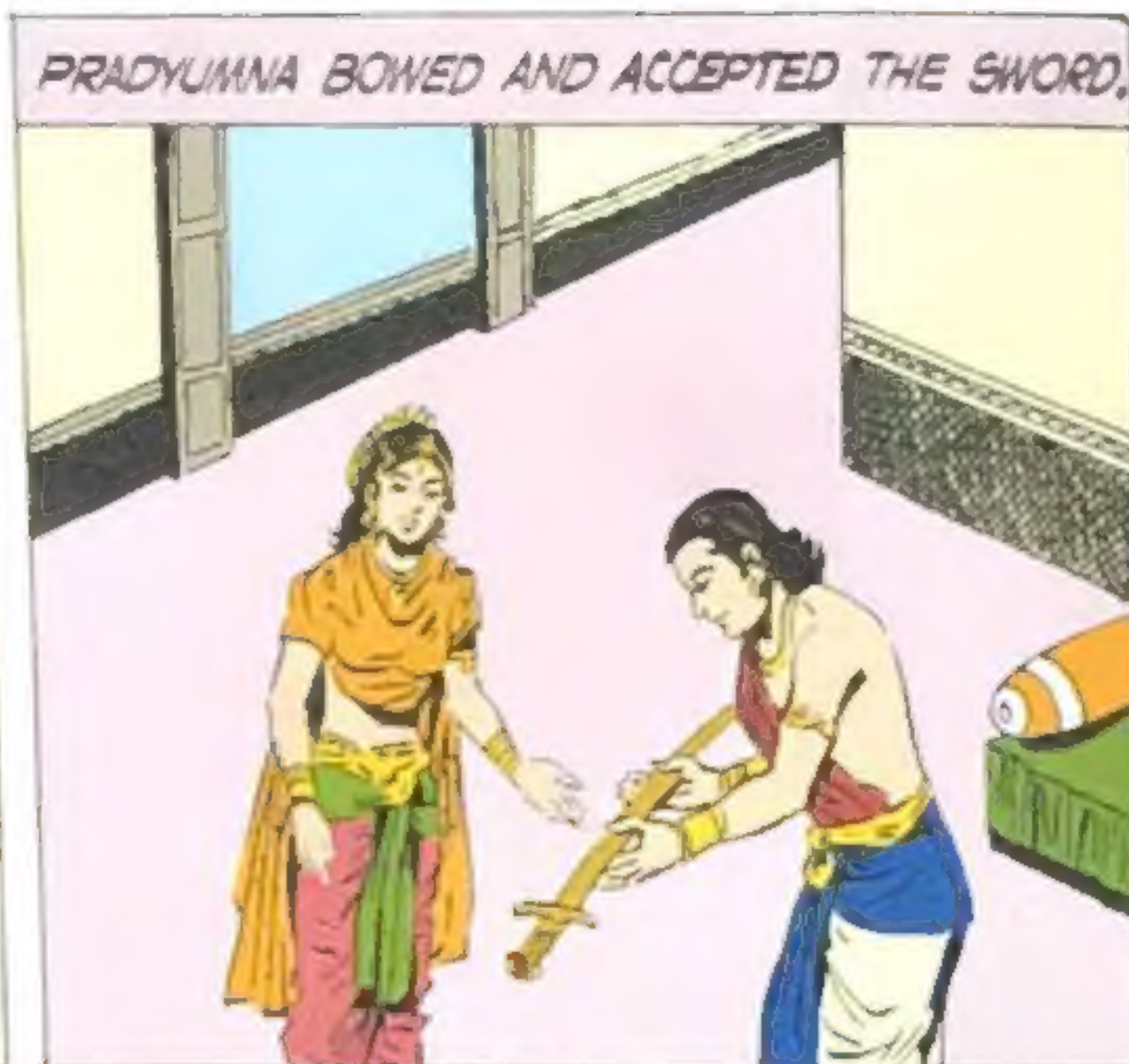
WHO ARE THEY? THEY LOOK LIKE MAGICS TO BE.

THEY ARE THE DEV MAGES OF THE SUDHORE AND CALLED SHALGAR! YOU'VE BEEN HERE AT VALRAYASHA'S PALACE ON THAT FATEFUL DAY.





GO! TAKE THIS SWORD
AND EMERGE THE
VICTOR!



PRADYUMNA BOWED AND ACCEPTED THE SWORD.

HE THEN DONNED HIS ARMOUR AND
TURNED TO
HIS UNCLE
GADA.

UNCLE, YOU AND
SAMBA STAY HERE AND
FIGHT. I WILL FIGHT FROM
THE SKY. LET THE OTHER
YADAVAS FIGHT IN THE
PALACE COURTYARDS.



THEN, USING HIS ILLUSORY POWERS, PRADYUMNA CREATED A CHARIOT WITH A THOUSAND-HEADED
NAGA AS HIS CHARIOTEER...



... AND CHARGED AT THE ASURA ARMY.



SUCHIMUKHI FLEW TO KRISHNA WITH THE NEWS.

MY FATHER'S SACRIFICE IS NOT
YET OVER. INDRA AND I WILL
JOIN THEM AS SOON AS IT IS
COMPLETED.



MEANWHILE, AT VAJRA —

I'LL FIGHT MY
WAY INTO THE PALACE.
VAJRANABHA IS MY MARK.
AND I MUST GET HIM.





PRADYUMNA QUICKLY CREATED MILLIONS OF HIS OWN IMAGES AND THE SKY SHONE BRIGHT WITH THEIR ARMOUR.



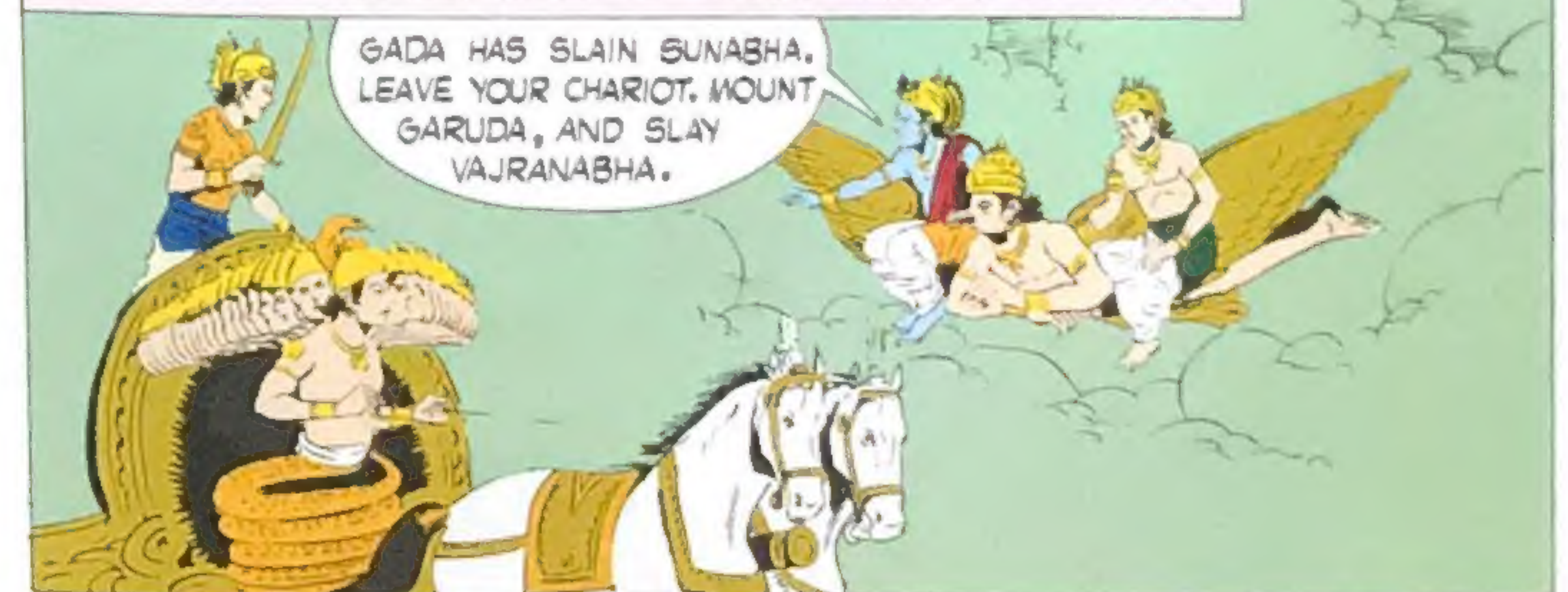
BY THE TIME PRADYUMNA HAD FINISHED WITH IT, THREE-FOURTHS OF THE ASURA ARMY WAS DESTROYED.



AT THAT MOMENT, KRISHNA AND INDRA ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, RIDING ON GARUDA. KRISHNA BLEW HIS CONCH TO ANNOUNCE HIS ARRIVAL.



PRADYUMNA'S CHARIOTEER GUIDED HIS CHARIOT TOWARDS THE SOUND.



RIDING ON GARUDA, PRADYUMNA ADVANCED TOWARDS VAJRANABHA . . .



. . . AND SWUNG HIS CLUB.



VAJRANABHA FELL .



HARDLY HAD PRADYUMNA ALIGHTED FROM GARUDA, WHEN VAJRANABHA ROSE AGAIN.



PRADYUMNA FELL, UNCONSCIOUS.

ALAS! HE'S FALLEN!

HE'LL RISE AGAIN, DON'T WORRY.



KRISHNA RAISED PANCHAJANYA AND BLEW HARD AND LONG INTO IT.



HEARING THE SOUND, PRADYUMNA REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS . . .





...AND STOOD UP, SUDDENLY —

WHAT'S THIS? FATHER HAS SENT HIS OWN WEAPON TO ME.

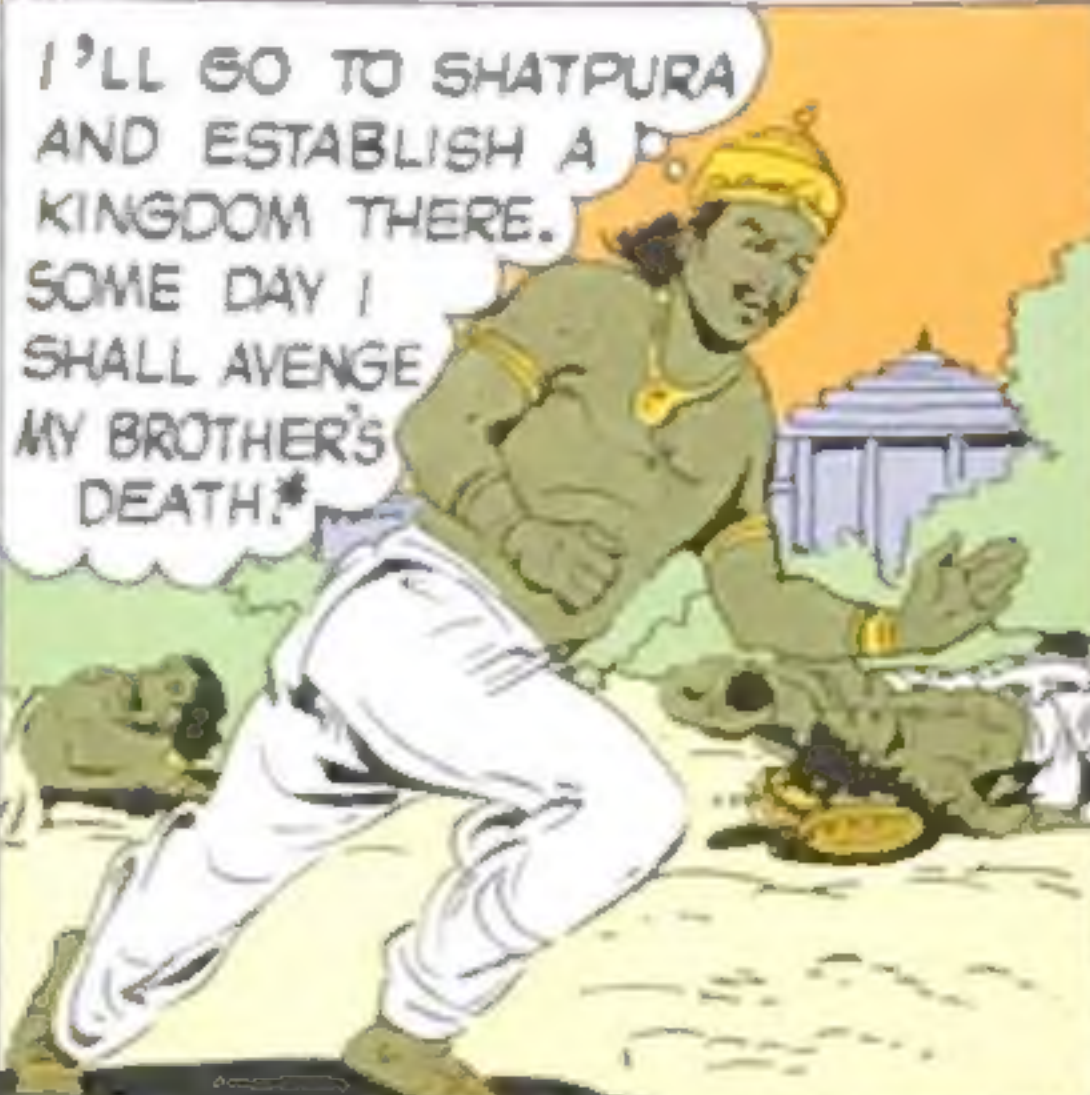


PRADYUMNA HELD UP HIS FINGER AND RECEIVED IT.

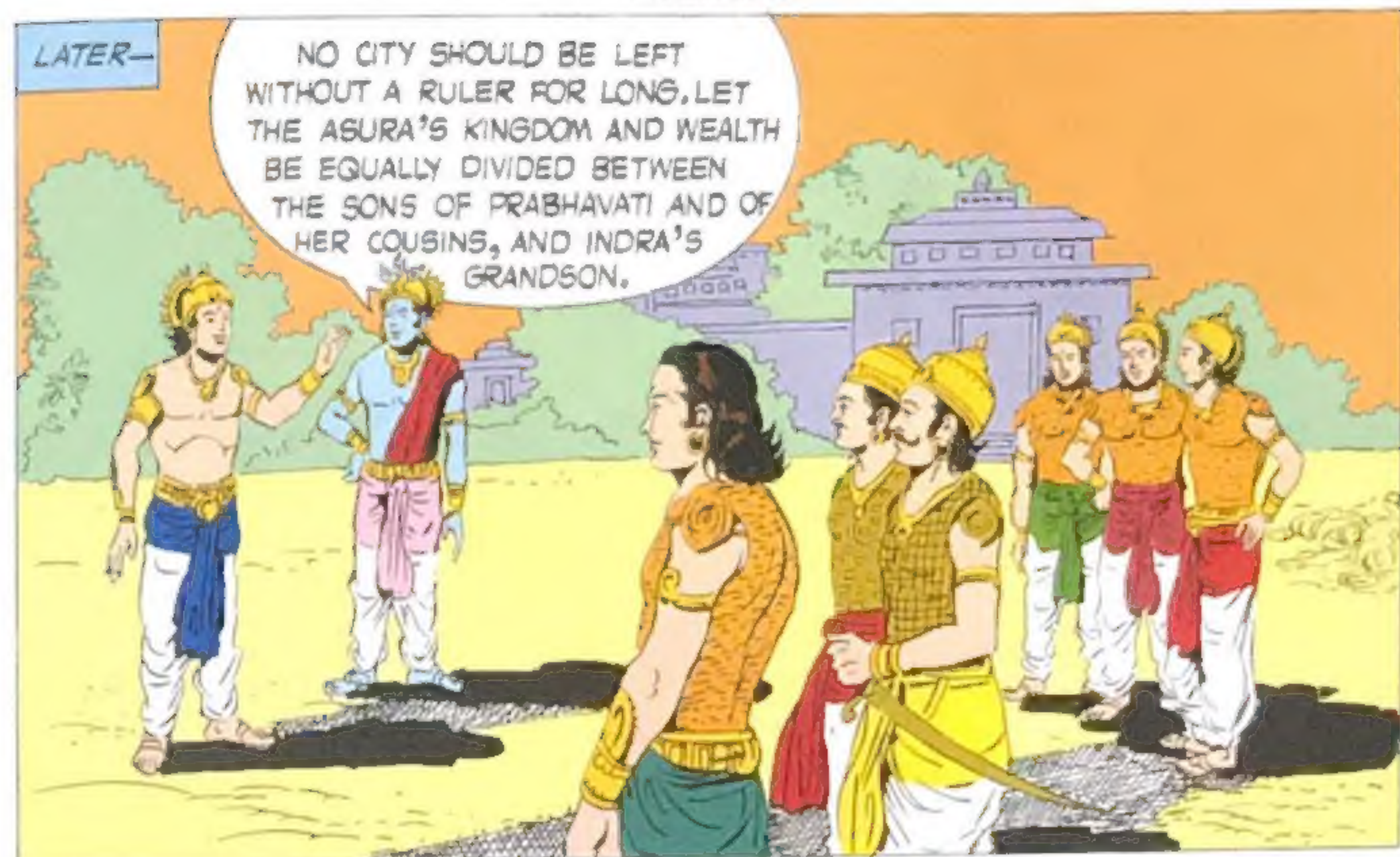
THE NEXT MOMENT, HE SENT IT WHIRLING TOWARDS VAIRANABHA.



WHEN HE SAW HIS BROTHER FALL, NIKUMBHA FLED FROM THE SCENE.



I'LL GO TO SHATPURA AND ESTABLISH A KINGDOM THERE. SOME DAY I SHALL AVENGE MY BROTHER'S DEATH.



LATER—

NO CITY SHOULD BE LEFT WITHOUT A RULER FOR LONG. LET THE ASURA'S KINGDOM AND WEALTH BE EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THE SONS OF PRABHAVATI AND OF HER COUSINS, AND INDRA'S GRANDSON.

PRADYUMNA SPOKE TO INDRA AND KRISHNA ON BEHALF OF HIS UNCLE AND SAMBA.



WITH YOUR PERMISSION WE WILL STAY ON AT VAIRA FOR SIX MONTHS TILL THE KINGDOMS OF OUR SONS ARE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED. WE WILL THEN RETURN TO DWARAKA WITH OUR WIVES.

KRISHNA AND INDRA WILLINGLY AGREED, AND RETURNED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE KINGDOMS WHILE THE OTHERS STAYED ON AT VAIRA TO FULFIL THEIR DUTIES TO THEIR SONS.